

November 2012

Dear Friends,

It is very strange how things work out!! Perhaps it is all part of God's plan. You may have noticed that I have been in church recently. This is because my prison work has come to an end. I came back from a short break in Cornwall and Somerset to be told that my work in the prison was going to stop at the beginning of September. The reason was the financial cuts, with the government cutting back on all prisons and departments. So September has been a time of doing domestic tasks. I have cut back trees and bushes, dug up plants and generally spent time catching up on work I should have done a long time ago. Then Martyn suggested that I could pick up some work in church. So I have come out of retirement yet again and have suggested 10 hours a week.

Having explained what has happened to me, I hope you are all well and fit. How have you been over the summer? I was delighted to read that David has started a Bible Study group and a weekly time of prayer. I look forward to joining in some of these events. I feel that a church which spends time in prayer and in looking at their Bibles is a church which is going places. Long may it continue. As you will know I am around for the next few Sundays and on into November.

When I was a teacher, many years ago, I recognised that this term, the autumn term, was the main one for preparing for exams. I am sure that this applies to church as well. It is a time to study and pick up on our Bible readings and prayers. This can be done as part of a group, but is possible on your own. So I would encourage you all to set time aside to read and pray. My time is usually in the early morning. But please find the best time for you. Use Bible notes and start small and then if you wish build up to a longer time. I am certain that you will find it most beneficial.

Please pray for Christ Church and each event which is happening this autumn. The Light Party at St Georges School, Remembrance Sunday, Advent Sunday and the events leading up to Christmas are all in need of prayer as well as your support.

May Christ move in our lives and may he bless each of us in the coming month.

Yours, Peter.

December/January 2013 Magazine

Could all entries for the above two month edition of the magazine be given to me by **Sunday, November 25th**. Publication will be following Sunday, December 2nd. ***Please remember that any items for January 2013 will need to be included!***

Should you wish to place a message in the Christmas card* which will be included in the above magazine this should be handed in, with your donation, by Sunday, November 18th at the latest!!

(*See note later in this magazine.)

Jane Richardson.

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### *Parish Register*

#### *Baptism*

September 30<sup>th</sup>

Charlie Stefan Taylor

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Collections

	Open Plate	Env/Gift Aid	Env. (NTP)
September :	£474.28	£1531.50	£180.45

Parish Share

We are currently up to date with our monthly payments of Parish share leaving November and December still to be paid. This is an incredible achievement considering the fundraising for the building project and recent Gift day. The budget for 2013 is being prepared and will reflect a 2.5% increase in our Parish Share. I ask that you pray about your financial commitment to Christ Church and all the work that is being done in the community. This is your Church with projects for you to belong too.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Gail.

200 Club

Draw result for October,

1st: No. 84, 2nd: No. 41

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, November 21st during the Day Centre meeting.

Harvest

Our harvest service was truly wonderful! To see the church decorated so beautifully, so many people attending, the Guides and Brownies parading their flags, and the amount of food bought for Food Bank was very humbling.

Our Harvest supper was also very well attended with 29 friends bringing an amazing variety of foods to share. The afternoon soon went by but we all managed to find time to sit and enjoy a chat with friends. Many 'goody bags' were taken home such was the quantity of food brought along!

A big 'thank you' to everyone who helped make both the harvest service and supper so enjoyable.

Dawn and Brian.

Harvest Festival

What a lovely Harvest Festival service we had! The church looked very autumnal and the flowers were beautiful so it really felt like harvest time.

It was great to see the Guides and Brownies along with their families in church and have their flags carried to the altar. Well done everyone!

Gill Stafford.

Fundraising

It was with great disappointment, and at very short notice, that we heard Waitrose were not able to let us to sell our Grand Draw tickets and bag pack on Saturday, October 20th. This was because of action taken by head office. It leaves us with a rather large hole in the fundraising finances as we usually raise between £400 - £500 at this event!! However £350 was raised in August with the Waitrose Community Challenge which was a wonderful total for no effort on our part! Thanks to everyone who put the little green discs into the Christ Church bin!

And so we move on to our next event:

Autumn Bazaar

This will be held on **Saturday 24th November, from 11.00 – 3.00pm** and we hope to have the following stalls:

Cakes & preserves,	Books,	White Elephant,
Wine & Water,	Tombola, Crafts,	Gifts and Toiletries
Tea Towels & Mugs	Toys & Games,	Refreshments.

Please support this event by donating items for the stalls. We need items for the tombola i.e. tins, toiletries, unwanted gifts; bottles of wine for the Wine & Water stall; toys, puzzles, cuddly toys for the Toy stall, anything really which we can sell to raise funds. Please bring these to church as soon as you are able. Items for the White elephant and book stall please bring to Church on Sunday 18th November. If you can make any cakes or preserves these can be delivered to Church after 9.30 on the morning of Saturday 24th. If you have any items to donate and are unable to bring them to Church yourself please ring Dawn on 753645, Jane Richardson on 752492 or Jane Harris on 762180.

The Grand Draw will take place during the Autumn Bazaar at 2.30pm. Please take extra tickets to sell to your family and friends; these are currently in the entrance hall. Any sold ticket stubs along with payment or unsold tickets should be returned to Church by Sunday 18th November. If you have any suitable raffle prizes please speak to Dawn Field.

We hope that you will support this event by inviting friends, family and neighbours to come along as it is our biggest fund raising event this year. Posters will shortly be available which we hope you will be able to display in your window to publicise this event.

Festive Fun Afternoon, Saturday, 8th December 2-4pm. £2 per person.

We hope you will all come and enjoy a 'getting into the Christmas spirit' sing-a-long with Roger Ing and Betty Lamb. This should be a lovely afternoon to enjoy festive refreshments and friendship with music and poems thrown in for extra cheer!! The minibus will be available to bring people along so speak to Dawn or Jane R to book your seat!

Christmas Card Messages

Once again we will be able to send Christmas messages to friends and our Church family through our Church Christmas Card.

Envelopes are now available in Church for you to put your message and donation in. **These must be returned to Dawn Field or Jane Harris by Sunday, November 18th at the very latest!!!** Money raised will go to Church Fund. Like last year there will be a separate card inside the December magazine that you will be able to pull out and stand with your other Christmas cards.

Help Needed!

There are now only four members on the fundraising committee! Dawn is finding it increasingly difficult to chair this committee as well as being a church warden and all the work and hours that involves! If you would like to join our merry group please speak to either Dawn or Jane R. You'll be made most welcome!

And lastly....

You may remember we raised a wonderful amount of money last year for our 50th Anniversary 'make over'. Well, we are spending the last amount raised on a new carpet for the church hall. Now that all the refurbishing work has been finished (and aren't the toilets fantastic!!) this will be laid on Thursday and Friday, November 1st and 2nd.

Hope you like it!

Fundraising Committee.



Love in a Box

The boxes will be filled on Saturday 3rd November at 2pm in the church hall - if you want to lend a hand please come and join us. Many hands make light work!

Thank you for all the donations of gifts, knitting, money etc. It has been overwhelming!

Gail, Gill and Phil.

Day Centre

We were all saddened by the death of long standing Day Centre Member, Ethel Coles. Ethel was very popular and certainly brightened up Wednesdays with her ready smile. We will all miss her hugely.

On a much happier note we look forward to celebrating Ruth Ashton's 100th Birthday on November 28th. I'm sure it will be a wonderful day.

During November, Alex Naylor will be playing the organ on the 7th, Nicky Downs is singing for us on the 14th and there will be an afternoon of Christmas Craft on the 28th.

Andrea, our hairdresser will be visiting during the month and the Foot Health Professional will be with us on November 28th at 10am.

The next Day Centre Communion will take place on November 7th at 11.15am.

Amy and Carolyn.

Mothers Union

The next M.U. Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held at St. Mary's Church on Thursday, November 1st at the usual time of 10.00am. All are welcome.

StartAfresh / Befrienders

Hi Everyone!

We had a lovely visit to Peterborough on October 1st. It was such a lovely day we had a picnic lunch in the gardens before having a tour of the Cathedral with its history and stain glass windows. Chris Thorley was very kind and treated us all to a cuppa in a little café! On two occasions now Chris has given us lovely presentations showing photos of the various churches we have visited – he makes them so amusing and interesting.

Linda, our RAE (Rutland Adult Education) tutor is making our course very interesting and enjoyable. It included a trip to Hobbycraft!

Lisa, from CAP is going to give us a money management course after half term which will help our members.

We had a visit from Paul Jackman from the Mental Health Foundation who came along to talk about initiatives to prevent mental health issues. He was very impressed by what we do at Christ Church and joined us for our Prepare and Share lunch.

Blessings to all, *Befrienders*

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## *Toddlers*

Our toddlers, mums and dads continue to enjoy our Thursday morning sessions. Joy and Alice have joined us lending a helping hand which is most welcome!

We have enjoyed Play-dough, painting and baking dried pasta as well as puzzles which are a great favourite.

Amy Parker's little Erine has now joined us. She's delightful as are all our little ones! It's lovely to see all the parents joining in with the stories and singing sessions.

God Bless

*All at the Toddler Group.*

## *Bishop of Lincoln's Letter*

*The warmth of summer and the splendour of autumn are giving way to long, dark nights and the kind of weather that encourages us to hunker down for the winter. Returning to a warm, brightly-lit house on a cold winter's evening is a wonderful feeling, as is the feeling of safety and security that comes with closing our own front door.*

*But for those of us fortunate enough to enjoy the warmth of our homes and the companionship of our families and friends, it's easy to forget the grinding poverty endured by so many – not just in the far-off places of our world, but in the cities, towns and villages where we live. Every community in the country is home to people who struggle to heat their homes, or who live with difficult or breaking relationships, or are homeless and have nowhere they can call home.*

*The season of Advent is the beginning of the Church's year. It is traditionally a time of watching and waiting. It is a time when we reflect on the coming of Jesus to us in history, and are reminded once more that we are waiting for him to come again. But it is also a time to remember that Jesus comes among us now, in the needs of the poor.*

*Advent is a good opportunity for us all to 'take stock' and focus our thoughts on the needs of others – something we are all called to do as followers of Jesus. This year I want this to be something we can do together. To help us in this, here are two ways in which we can all get involved:*

*First, the Diocese will be producing an Advent booklet and online resources designed to help us focus on some of the issues which we as Christians are called upon to pray about and to act on: poverty, injustice, inequality, lack of opportunity, and many more. I hope that you will make use of these excellent resources and join in this prayer initiative across the diocese. More information on this will be available soon.*

*Advent is of course a precursor to Christmas, when our watching and waiting is rewarded in the birth of Jesus in Nazareth. The nativity story is often romanticised into something rather charming and magical, but the reality would have been very different. To highlight this, I will be doing a Stable Sleep-out, sleeping on a bed of straw in a stable on the night of 20<sup>th</sup> December with just a sleeping bag and a flask for comfort and warmth.*

*Jesus was born in a stable, and no doubt it was cold and uncomfortable. Many children are born into similarly dangerous and vulnerable situations today; many people live without the safety and security that a home of one's own can provide; many people endure daily hardship that most of us can only imagine, with cold and hunger their ever-present companions.*

*I won't be able to mend our broken world by doing the Stable Sleep-out, but I hope to discover some of the harsh realities of the experience of Mary and Joseph – and the many people around the country who have no bed in which to sleep.*

*Please do join in this endeavour with prayerful support for me and for all those who need our help this Advent. I hope you will also consider sponsoring me to do it, so that together we can make a difference to the lives of homeless people in Lincolnshire through the work of the Nomad Trust, and to those who live in the Favelas of Brazil through the work of Christian Aid.*

*Please visit [dioce.se/stable](http://dioce.se/stable) for more information, and [www.charitygiving.co.uk/stablesleepout](http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/stablesleepout) to sponsor me.*

*I would also encourage parishes to consider having collections in support of the Stable Sleep-out.*

**+Christopher Lincoln:**

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Street Pastors

On Sunday, November 4th, following the morning Communion Service we will be having refreshments as usual. However this is going to be in aid of the Street Pastors who perform a wonderful job of engaging with people on the streets of Stamford on Friday and Saturday nights to care, listen to and help anyone they meet and provide a peaceful presence on the night-time streets.

We hope as many of you as possible will support this project. We ask that you donate a minimum of £1.50 to the appeal for the refreshments.

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# *Cat's Tails*

*Hi Family!*

*I think the autumn is creeping up on us. Although it can be a bit draughty sometimes I still manage the occasional sunbathe. Mummy Jane still gives me my morning cuddles even though she's retired now! Mummy Ruth says we have a lovely church family and I have to agree!!*

*Luv's you all, M.D.*

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## *A Child's View of Thunderstorms*

*A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.*

*The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother got into her car and quickly drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.*

*At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.*

*When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"*

*The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."*

*May God bless you today and every day as you face  
the storms that come your way!*

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# Calendar

## November

|                                                      |           |                                                |                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday                                             | 1         | All day<br>7.30<br>7.30                        | Church hall carpet being laid<br>Prayer Meeting<br>Horticultural Society AGM                                        |
| Friday                                               | 2         | All day                                        | Church hall carpet being laid                                                                                       |
| Saturday                                             | 3         | 2.00                                           | 'Love in a Box' filling                                                                                             |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>4<sup>th</sup> before Advent</b> | <b>4</b>  | <b>10.00</b><br><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Holy Communion</b><br>Followed by refreshments in aid<br>of the Street Pastors<br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evensong</b> |
| Monday                                               | 5         | 1-3                                            | Befrienders                                                                                                         |
| Tuesday                                              | 6         | 6.30                                           | Spanish Lesson                                                                                                      |
| Wednesday                                            | 7         | 9-3<br>11.15<br>7.30                           | Day Centre<br>Day Centre Communion<br>Gospel Choir                                                                  |
| Thursday                                             | 8         | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                            | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting                                                                             |
| Friday                                               | 9         | Morning<br><br>1-3                             | Official opening of new<br>Facilities<br>Befrienders                                                                |
| <b>Remembrance</b><br><b>Sunday</b>                  | <b>11</b> | <b>10.00</b><br><br><b>4.00</b><br><b>6.30</b> | <b>Holy Communion with Act of</b><br><b>Remembrance at 11.00am</b><br><b>CC@4</b><br><b>Evensong</b>                |
| Monday                                               | 12        | 1-3<br>8.00                                    | Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                                                                               |
| Tuesday                                              | 13        | 6.30                                           | Spanish Lesson                                                                                                      |
| Wednesday                                            | 14        | 9-3<br>7.30<br>7.30                            | Day Centre<br>Gospel Choir<br>PCC (note new time)                                                                   |
| Thursday                                             | 15        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                            | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting                                                                             |
| Friday                                               | 16        | 1-3                                            | Befrienders                                                                                                         |

|                                                      |           |                                            |                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>2<sup>nd</sup> before Advent</b> | <b>18</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                                               | 19        | 1-3<br>8.00                                | Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                         |
| Tuesday                                              | 20        | 6.30                                       | Spanish Lesson                                                |
| Wednesday                                            | 21        | 9-3<br>7.30                                | Day Centre<br>Gospel Choir                                    |
| Thursday                                             | 22        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                        | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting                       |
| Friday                                               | 23        | 1-3                                        | Befrienders                                                   |
| Saturday                                             | 24        | 11-3pm                                     | Autumn Bazaar                                                 |

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|-----------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>Christ the King</b> | <b>25</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                                  | 26        | 1-3<br>8.00                                | Befrienders<br>Bible Study Home Group                   |
| Tuesday                                 | 27        | 6.30                                       | Spanish Lesson                                          |
| Wednesday                               | 28        | 9-3<br>7.30                                | Day Centre<br>Gospel Choir                              |
| Thursday                                | 29        | 9.30<br>1-3<br>7.30                        | Toddlers<br>Twinklets<br>Prayer Meeting                 |
| Friday                                  | 30        | 1-3                                        | Befrienders                                             |

*December*

|                      |          |                                            |                                                                          |
|----------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Advent 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>Advent Readings and Hymns</b> |
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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.

