

## October 2014

Dear Friends,

I love this time of year, the harvest is safely gathered in, the leaves have just started to change colour, there is an abundance of berries on the bushes, and the fruit trees are dropping their remaining fruit. We have had some misty mornings and gloriously warm autumn afternoons.

The seasons are wonderful aren't they? The fine weather has meant that Tony and I have been out and about walking and cycling in the parish, which is doing us good health wise, but more than that it means we got to talk to folks, and pray for our parish and our town as we walk. Being out and about we cannot fail to notice the beauty of creation all around us and the changing seasons.

Harvest is the time God's people have always given thanks to God for his great provision in their lives, it is also a time when we think about how we as Christians can help to support and provide for those who have less than we do.

As I write I have just taken my first assembly at Bluecoat Primary School, where I received a very warm welcome, and I'm preparing for our Family Harvest Service at church. By the time you read this we will have collected in foods to help those who use the services of The Food Bank here in Stamford and I thank you all for your wonderful contributions towards this work, and also to everyone who decorated the church for the Harvest Festival service and the harvest supper which Tony and I look forward to joining you at, on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

September has been a month of 'firsts' for Tony and me, as the projects here at Christ Church have got up and running again after the summer holidays. We are in a season of newness even as we watch the leaves begin to fall and the nights pull in there is a sense of new shoots of hope springing up.

God is always at work wanting to do new things in our lives, being a Christian means being on a journey and helping others to join in. So this autumn amongst the changing colours be on the lookout for those new shoots of hope I mention, and watchful for God's hand at work in your lives in wonderful ways.

*Rev Nikki and Tony*

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## November Magazine

Please could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be e-mailed to **Jane Richardson** or put in her pigeon hole by Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> Publication will be on Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>. Please be prompt.

*Jane Calderin.*

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## *Collections*

	<b>Open Plate</b>	<b>DD Giving (Bank)</b>	<b>Env. Giving</b>
<b>August</b>	£563	£790	£417
<b>Donations</b>	£2836	<b>Gift Aid recovered</b>	£1668
<b>Fund Raising Activities</b> £500			

*Nigel*

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## *100 Club*

**Draw results for August :** 1<sup>st</sup>: 153 2<sup>nd</sup>: 10

**Draw results for September:** 1<sup>st</sup>: 113 2<sup>nd</sup>: 119

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, October 15th during the Day Centre meeting.

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## *Bits and Pieces*

### *Christ Church Gift Days*

Thank you to everyone who has supported and given money so generously for this year's Gift Day. The total raised so far is £ 1668

### *Sponsored Bicycle Ride*

Work colleague of David Wise, David Etteridge successfully completed the sponsored cycle ride for Christ Church, for which we are very grateful. At the time of this magazine being printed, we have not yet received all the sponsored monies. If you have not yet paid-up, please pay Peter Wise, asap.

Hopefully we will be able to let you know the full amount raised in next month's magazine.

### *Harvest Supper, Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 - 6:30 pm*

This will be a 'bring and share' supper when, we hope, many friends will come along to church for food and friendship! Bring a plate of food for yourself plus a little extra for sharing. Drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

The minibus will be available should you want a lift; so please let one of the churchwardens know in advance.

### *The Friends of Christ Church*

We will be holding our first AGM on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Christ Church. You do not have to be a 'Friend' to attend. If you would like more information please get in touch with a member of the Committee.

Jane Calderin 754290, Dawn Field 753645, Gail Burnham 751780

Mike Mills 07523312387

*Jane Calderin (Chair)*

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## *Fundraising*

Looking ahead to our **Bazaar on November 22<sup>nd</sup>** the **Grand Draw tickets** are now in the entrance for you to take and sell to family, friends and work colleagues – and anyone else you can think of! Tickets cost £1 a book of 5 tickets so take as many as you can. Donations for prizes for the Grand draw will be most welcome and should be given to Dawn. More details about the stalls etc. for the bazaar will be in November's magazine.

## *Fundraising Committee*

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### *Mothers Union*

The next M.U. meeting will be held at St. George's Church starting at 10 am. All are welcome.

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### *Christian Aid*

I have just received the total raised in Stamford for Christian Aid this year. It was £8,527.95 about 10% higher than last year which is an excellent result. Thank you again to all who contributed in any way.

*Jane Calderin*

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### *Toddlers*

Hi Everyone!

We are only two weeks into our new term. First week was about Daniel and the lions – poster on display. The second week we made 'Kitchen Dollies'. Enjoyed by all Mums and Toddlers alike! Tony is baking gorgeous fruit loaf for toasting! It tastes and smells lovely! Amy and Austin (interns from St. George's) have been helping us. Nikki and Tony joined in the play. Rachel leading the sing-song with her usual inspiring enthusiasm! Come and join us Mums and Pre-schoolers! Love to everyone, God Bless.

*The Toddlers Gang*

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### *Day Centre*

We started back on Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>. It has been a very busy month! Nikki sang for us, and we had Bingo, a quiz and the 'Wild Cats' singing songs from the musicals. A good time was had by everyone. We had a stall on Stamford Market on Sept 5<sup>th</sup> and raised £376.75. Thank you to everyone who helped to achieve this.

A warm welcome to our new members:

Kathleen Windsor    Suzanne Ingham    Joan Fountain  
Ronette    'Nan' Vick    and    Ellen McLauchlin

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed back Alma Norton.

It is lovely that we have new members joining us and we look forward to the Day Centre growing. This does mean that we are needing two or more volunteers to join the driving rota. If you or anyone you know can spare an hour once a month please to get in touch. Our wonderful cook, Colin Ashpole had a hip replacement on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. We wish him a speedy recovery. If you know of anyone who would be willing to Cook at the Day Centre, even as a one off, please let us know.

October's Calendar

1<sup>st</sup> Holy Communion 11:15am      Cook (shop in town) coming to let members know about delivery service, so they can enjoy nutritious meals at home.

8<sup>th</sup> Quiz or 'Wild Cats' 15<sup>th</sup> Jeremy Hillyard Singing 22<sup>nd</sup> Foot Health

## *Catrina and Barbara*

I would like to thank Barbara for taking on the task of organizing the tombola for the market stall. She did a fantastic job!!

## *Catrina*

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## *Start-a-Fresh / Befrienders*

Hi Everyone,

So far this term we have enjoyed trips to Rutland Water Beach and Barnack church. Its nice to have Chris (Thorley) back with us. We've had two Prepare and Share Monday meals as well as a light lunch on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup> 'Italian style Pasta Bake with garlic bread. (Ed.are you hungry yet?) Our new RAE course started Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> about assertiveness; it will run for a total of eight weeks. Trips are planned for Ten Pin Bowling at Wittering, a visit to Great Casterton church and shopping in Corby during half term. God Bless, love to you all from all of us.

## *Befrienders*

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## *Bishop of Grimsby's Letter for October*

First impressions, it is said, are important, so what are my first impressions of the Diocese of Lincoln - after actually being here in post, as I write, all of one week!

Well the welcome has been all we could have hoped for, and we have met some wonderfully warm, affirming and incredibly helpful people. The sun has so far shone, and I have seen the county at what I suspect is its glorious best - and we have discovered a church full of heart and positively wanting to move forward.

It is a contrast to how we are often seen by the world at large - and yet I love the description of the Church in 1 Peter 'but you' he says, 'are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a Holy nation, a people belonging to God'.

That, despite all our flaws, is how God sees us. It is what we are called to live out - and I am looking forward to working with you to build 'faithful, confident, joyful communities' in the years that now lay ahead.

## *Bishop David Grimsby*

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## “TALES FROM THE UNDERGROWTH” - GARDENS UPDATE

By the time you read this the leaves will probably have started to fall off the trees covering the ground in a glorious multi coloured leafy carpet heralding the inevitable end of summer, Indian or otherwise! We enjoy seeing the rich hues and colours of the autumn leaves but for many, the prospect of looking at bare branches that heralds the onset of winter is probably not as enjoyable, although this may not be true for all. I know several people that prefer the cool of winter to the heat of summer, not extreme cold of course!

Albert Camus said ““Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.” John Donne wrote “No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumnal face.” Samuel Butler expressed it thus “Autumn is the mellower season, and what we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits.”

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven” (Ecclesiastes 3) He made the moon to mark the seasons; the sun knows its time for setting.(Psalm 104) and “while the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.” (Genesis 8)

I hope that you can see the fruits of my labours in the gardens as I have tried to wrest some sort of control in most areas of the gardens around the church! A lot of shrubs have been trimmed back, areas weeded and several plants have been added including honeysuckles and clematis on the northern new fence. 4 berberis and a pyracantha were planted in front of the temporary barrier to the left of the ramp up to church to create a prickly hedge to deter people from using this as a short cut! When they have grown I will take the temporary fence down leaving the plants to form part of a mini wild life area as outlined in my last magazine article.

The idea is that this Northwest corner by the new fence will be attractive and welcoming to both human and insect visitors . The area has been weeded and bulbs planted to herald the spring! The Monarda and Cone Flower should be a magnet for bees as the existing Lavatera has proved to be. On a warm September day even the ‘weeds’ were attracting butterflies and other insects!

Which brings me to the thorny question of what is a weed? The answer it is *a plant growing in the wrong place* begs the question what do we mean ‘*in the wrong place*’? Who decides what is wrong ? Is it ‘man-kind’ who are meant to be custodians of all living creatures, big and small on this planet? At times we are not good stewards perhaps we need to think twice about our actions.

Ivy for example gets a very bad press and it is often accused of attacking stone-walls etc. and causing damage. So it is often cut down indiscriminately because ‘ivy is bad’! Appearances can be deceptive, trees that appear to be taken over by ivy are often weakened by fungal disease and dying which reduces the tree canopy and the ivy is trying to take advantage of this by growing over it so it can capture more light.

What about all those roots? Surely they must be causing damage? Not true for the roots you can see emerging from the stem are adventitious roots, they do not penetrate walls or wood and remove nutrients as many think; they are only there for support rather like the tendrils of many plants. The ivy derives its nutrients from roots in the ground like most plants. In fact ivy is a wonderful plant for wild life. The flowers provide a very valuable source of nectar for butterflies and other insects like bees in the late summer/autumn when nectar is scarce. Ivy berries provide a valuable source of food for birds like the song thrush, mistle thrush, black cap, and robin from November to April.

In spring ivy provides nesting cover for birds with its dense foliage hiding them from predators. The holly blue is a beautiful small blue butterfly that can be seen flying round the church gardens that needs ivy and holly for its caterpillars to feed on.

So it is no surprise to find it in the Wildlife garden at the back of the church where ivy is deliberately grown on a fence but even ivy needs pruning at times so it isn’t ‘*growing in the wrong place*’! Thus I have

been busy behind the church pruning ivy, buddleia, honeysuckle, brambles etc. that have grown in my absence. I am pleased to report that they are now under control and you can walk from one end to the other! I have created another Leaf Pile in anticipation of the mass of leaves that I will need to sweep up and clear which brings us back to those falling Autumn Leaves!! Enjoy Autumn, I intend to!

*Chris*

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### *Love in a Box*

Earlier this year, I accepted an invitation to listen to Chris Roberts from Samaritan's Purse (which we affectionately call Love in a Box) give a talk about what happens to the boxes.

The meeting was in Kings Lynn one Tuesday evening and there were about 20 people turned up at a little village hall in the back of beyond. The refreshments were all homemade, feeding the 5000 sprang to mind!

Chris began with thanking **everyone** for their contribution, however great or small because without this generosity of all involved, children would not receive the gift of a "box of love" or hear about Jesus. He went on to tell us that as some of the children have no religious upbringing, the boxes were not necessarily given out in December as a Christmas gift, but although the boxes were given to children of poor background, orphans, etc there was no discrimination and all children would receive a box.

Along with the box, the children were also given a talk about Jesus and the reason why they were receiving their box. The children are then invited to walk alongside Jesus on a 6 week course and at the end of the 6 weeks, they were to invite family and friends to hear all about their learning's. Chris says that this is a very enthusiastic and uplifting experience. The child completing the course, then hands a "box" to a friend who has come to listen to their story, who then gets the opportunity to walk with Jesus and so the story goes on.....there is real bonding and a gentle growing of Christianity within these communities. If the children drop out or do not wish to take up the opportunity, they are welcomed back after the 6 weeks to hear from those who did accept. Some of the testimonials are profound and tear jerking...trust me!

We all know, as parents and grandparents, just how much fun a child can have with a cardboard box, let alone opening it to find a whole lot of goodies which gives them the opportunity to walk with Jesus, is an overwhelmingly humbling experience.

As we ramp up our requests for contributions to go in the boxes, I can now advise that shoeboxes of all shapes and sizes are acceptable. The lids do not have to be loose, they can be flip lid. NO toy soldiers, war toys, guns, liquids or mirrors. Soft toys do not have to have a CE label, the only stipulation is that if you wouldn't give it to your children, then don't donate it or put in a box. Knitted toys are acceptable without the CE label, with the same sensibility, that if you wouldn't give it to your children, then don't donate it or put in a box.

Children love sweets, paper and pencils (rubber and pencil sharpener).

The Americans think us Brits strange, as we always put a scarf, hat and gloves in our boxes, but as Chris says, this is some of the warmest clothing these children have....evening temperatures drop in their countries, just as it does over here.

Please may I thank you for reading this article, if anyone would like to get involved, help or find out more, give me a ring: 01780 751780.

Children are our future, may God bless them all

*Gail, Gill and Phil*

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## *Trees in Christ Church Grounds*

We have undertaken a root and branch review of the trees along the boundary of Christ Church. To some this is treemendous; some may think we are barking mad; still others want to leaf the matter well alone. But we have to act because there are some potentially serious issues to be addressed. To make a long story short, i.e. to trunkate it, here's the low-down.

Early in October some of Christ Church's trees will be removed, namely all five trees along the eastern boundary and the two weakest trees along the northern boundary. We have had a report by an arboriculturist (a professional tree man, to you and me) that one tree is in danger of causing damage to the foundations of Christ Church. Falling leaves mean that our gutters have to be cleared out regularly. Also, some residents of Christ Church Close are concerned that tree roots will damage the foundations of their walls and buildings; that falling branches could damage their property; that falling leaves create work and make the pathway adjacent to the church grounds slippery; that falling seeds result in multitudinous saplings that have to be removed; that the droppings of pigeons nesting in the trees cause damage to the paintwork of cars parked underneath; and that the trees block light from their houses.

We feel we should take the concerns of our neighbours seriously, especially as these are all self-set sycamore and ash trees with no particular ecological benefit. There is currently no indication of dieback disease in our ash trees, but we do know that ash dieback is present in the vicinity of the church and if our trees were to catch this disease we would have to fell those trees as a matter of urgency, for which we would have to pay a premium.

The work is scheduled for 6th and 7th of October, but those dates are weather dependent. There is bound to be some disruption to the use of the car park during the work. We look for your tolerance and understanding in this.

*Paul Darley*

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## *An Interesting Article about Harvest*

The Autumn season is here and with it comes many widely celebrated events and traditions such as bonfire nights and Harvest Festival so thought I'd share with you some of the history behind this celebrated event.

The word 'Harvest' comes from the Old English Word 'haerfest' which means autumn and interestingly the full moon which occurs closest to the autumn equinox has long been known as the 'harvest moon' which usually happens in September. In ancient traditions Harvest Festivals were held on the nearest Sunday to the harvest moon, but now-a-days the festival tends to be held at the end of the harvest.

The Harvest Festival has been around for centuries and it comes from the tradition of celebrating a successful harvest. A special supper would be held to celebrate the last day of the harvest within the local community and people would give thanks for the fruit and vegetables that had grown from their crops. Music, dancing and lots of good food were the main themes of this festival.

The festival has also been introduced into Churches, with special services being held where Christians thank God for all the good things He has given them and donate the food from the harvest to those in need.

*Supplied by Janet Ingram*

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## *Cat's Tails*

Hi Family!

Oooh! I did get a fright! Mummy Ruthie left the church the other day and went the wrong way! I thought she'd forgotten to feed me, but she had someone coming to visit and came back a bit later Phew! What a relief! And I got chicken bits, well worth the wait! I knew she wouldn't forget me really any more than Mummy Jane would. Love you all.

**MD**

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## *Calendar*

### **October**

Wednesday	1	9-3	Day Centre
		11.15	Holy Communion
		5.30-7	Dance
Thursday	2	9.30	Toddlers
		12.30-2	Pastoral Prayers
		1-3	Start-a-Fresh
		5.30-7	Dance (Teenzone)
		7-10	Horticultural Society
		7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	3	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	4	4.30-6.30	Harvest Supper
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>
		<b>4.00</b>	<b>CC@4</b>
		<b>6.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
Monday	6	9.30	Team Meeting
		1-3	Befrienders Lunch
		5-6	Teenzone Drama
		8.00	Bible Study Group
Tuesday	7	12-2	Evergreen Lunch
		9-5	Pinnacle People
Wednesday	8	9-3	Day Centre
		5.30-7	Teenzone Dance
Thursday	9	9.30	Toddlers
		12.30-2	Pastoral Prayers
		1-3	Start-a-Fresh
		5.30-7	Teenzone Dance
		7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	10	1-3	Befrienders
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</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	13	9.30	Team Meeting
		11.0-4	Befrienders Lunch
		5-6	Teenzone Drama
		8.00	Bible Study Group
Tuesday	14	9-5	Pinnacle People
		7.30-10	Deanery Synod
Wednesday	15	9-3	Day Centre
		5.30-7	Teenzone Dance
Thursday	16	9.30	Toddlers
		12.30-2	Pastoral Prayers
		1-3	Start-a-Fresh
		5.30-7	Teenzone Dance

		7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	17	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	18	10-12	Friends of CC AGM
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Service of the Word</b>
		<b>4.00</b>	<b>CC@4</b>
		<b>6.30</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
Monday	20	9.30	Team Meeting
		11.0-4	Befrienders Lunch
		5-6	Teenzone Drama
		8.00	Bible Study Group
Tuesday	21	9-5	Pinnacle People
Wednesday	22	9-3	Day Centre
		5.30-7	Teenzone Dance
		7.30-9	PCC Meeting
Thursday	23	Half Term	Begins
		12.30-2	Pastoral Prayers
		1-3	Start-a-Fresh
		5.30-7	Teenzone Dance
		7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	24	1-3	Befrienders
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</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	27	9.30	Team Meeting
		11.0-4	Befrienders Lunch
		8.00	Bible Study Group
Tuesday	28	9-5	Pinnacle People
Wednesday	29	9-3	Day Centre
Thursday	30	9.30	Toddlers
		1-3	Start-a-Fresh
		7.30	Prayer Meeting
Friday	31	1-3	Befrienders
Saturday	1		Coffee Morning

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.

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