

April Magazine

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, it is one of those grey cloudy days, where everything looks dank, dark and fairly miserable. It reminds me of a day in the autumn of one year when we seemed to have had days and days of dark, dismal, cloudy miserable days. We had a prayer time before our mid-week Holy Communion. Everyone looked really fed up with the weather and it seemed everything else. Tony breezed in and as we started to pray, he said, "Thank you Lord for the dandelion I saw this morning pushing up through the tarmac." Everyone laughed because he showed us that whatever was happening outside there is always something to praise and thank God for!! What a great lesson to learn. Just remember that whatever is happening about you there is always something to look out for and praise God for, even if it is only a dandelion.

What a great lesson. As we approach Easter this year, I do hope you will look out for things, which you see or experience, and remember to give praise and thanks to God.

During April we are due to hold our AGM. This will be on 10th April after the 10.0am Holy Communion. This will be preceded by what used to be called the Annual Vestry Meeting, where we elect the churchwardens for the next year. Please be asking the present holders of those posts if they would like to stand for another year. At the AGM we receive reports about how things are going at Christ Church. (The Projects, finances and the general fabric of the building). We also have to elect people onto the PCC. This is a very important meeting so I hope you will put time aside to come to the meeting and support all those who are working so hard in the running of Christ Church.

One final thought, April also has some interesting Sundays; please do your best to attend for Mothering Sunday and Palm Sunday as well as the great Festival of Easter at the end of the month. As we follow Jesus on the way to His crucifixion, it is really great to celebrate the glorious news of His Resurrection.

Yours in Christ

Peter

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# Collections

|                  | Open Plate | Env/Gift Aid | Env. (NTP) |
|------------------|------------|--------------|------------|
| <b>February:</b> | £189.06    | £ 717.00     | £ 266.00   |

Donations totalling £125.00

HMRC tax claim

Every year I claim tax back from HMRC for those givers who tick the box as being a tax payer. Did you know that if you were in the High Earner tax bracket that there is possibly a further £12 in every £100 claimed that could be made available to the Church funds? I am happy to talk to anyone about regular giving, tax claims, envelope giving, direct debit giving or indeed anything to do with the Church finances!

Please give me a call on 01780 751780

Thank you for reading this...

**Gail**

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May Magazine

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to me by **Friday, April 29th**. Publication will be the following **Tuesday, May 3rd**. This is because of holidays and Easter. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

Jane Richardson.

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## 200 Club

Draw result for March,

1<sup>st</sup>: No. 161, 2<sup>nd</sup>: No. 3

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> during the Day Centre meeting.

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Easter Flowers

Every year we ask everyone to be as generous as possible with their donations towards the Church flowers for Easter, Harvest and Christmas. Our thanks to each one of you; without your generosity we would struggle to raise the funds.

Donations for the Easter flowers can be given to Dawn Field or Jane Harris by April 17th. Please put your donation in an envelope with the name of your loved one(s) to be remembered clearly written on the outside or on a slip inside. A list will be displayed in the Church foyer.

The flower ladies & gentlemen will be arranging the flowers from 9.30 on Saturday the 23 April, please come and join us, any help would be gratefully appreciated.

Remember, we are all amateurs and you will not be left alone we will help you all we can.

Thankyou

Dawn and Jane H.



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the coffee morning and slide show in February, there were over 50 people there and it was truly a morning of fellowship as we shared Jane's trip to New Zealand. Thank you Jane, £135 was raised, well done.

Other dates for your diary

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Friday 17th June | All day | Market stall |
| Saturday 16th July | 2-4pm | Strawberry Teas |
| Weekend of October 8th/9th | | Church 50th Anniversary |
| Saturday 19th November | All day | Bazaar & Grand Draw |
| Thursday 15th December | 6.30pm | Festive Social Evening |

We hope to set up a committee to organize our 50th Anniversary celebrations, if you would like to be part of this please speak to one of the Fundraising Committee, Church Wardens or Deacon Jane.

Peter Hart, Maria Jackson & David Wise have all started their sponsored slim; please encourage them and sponsor them if you have not already done so; the form is in the entrance hall.

Fundraising Committee



An Update on Start-a-Fresh Activities

For the past six Monday mornings, many members of Start-a-Fresh have enjoyed participating in a 'creative' workshop. For some members, it has been their first opportunity to create lovely crafts, including photograph albums, felt key rings and fabric Easter eggs.

Preparing and sharing lunch has become an important aspect of the Befriending Group. These meals bring to many a sense of belonging and value. However, we are also mindful that we should meet the standard health and safety requirements. With this in mind, Start-a-Fresh recently applied to the Lincolnshire County Council PIP fund and has now been awarded £500. This grant will provide an opportunity for 15 members of the group to achieve their Level 1 certificate in Food Hygiene, and four volunteers (who help run the sessions) to achieve their Level 2 Food Hygiene certificate.

Jack Wright from South Kesteven District Council has kindly offered Christ Church social projects the opportunity to explore healthy cooking initiatives. With guidance and support from this qualified chef, each participant cooks a two course meal and most importantly takes the food home! The Befriending Group has already enjoyed two sessions and is eagerly awaiting the third. There will shortly be similar cookery demonstrations by him for members of the other projects too. We are all extremely grateful for this support.

The Befriending Group continues to provide opportunities to meet others and develop new skills. If you would like to learn more about the group please contact Katie Blay 01780 766446 or call in at the Church office.

Katie



‘Befriending group’ SKDC Healthy Cooking Initiative

Day Centre News

We all enjoyed the talk Rev Martyn Taylor gave about his visit to Uganda and it was lovely to see Tim Mackrill again. The Rutland Osprey Project continues to go from strength to strength and at the time of Tim’s talk the imminent return of the ospreys was eagerly awaited by all involved.

We extend a very warm welcome to new Members Edna Harrison, Gwen Sysmore, Joyce Thomas and Mavis Wilkinson and hope they enjoy their time with us.

On April 6th the children from Bluecoat School are coming to sing for us who are always very popular and then on the 27th we look forward to a Magic Show.

There will only be two meetings this month due to our Easter break. The Day Centre will be closed on April 13th & 20th.

The Foot Health Practitioner will not be with us during April but returns on May 4th.

The next Day Centre Communion takes place on April 6th at 11.15.

Amy & Carolyn

Working with Families

Toddlers

We've had the arrival of two new babies!

Archie - 17th Feb 2011

Maxwell - 20th Feb 2011

Archie's Nan from Portugal, who has no English, showed by sign how obviously delighted and full of love she was for her new grandchild! It was lovely to welcome her to the group.

Auntie Barbara has had her operation on her knee and is recovering well.

We are making shamrocks for St. Patrick's Day and we

Have pictures of St. George and the Dragon to colour for St. George's Day on April 23rd.

Love to all our members; we look forward to welcoming you at the group.

Love

Nanny Ruth, Aunties Barbara, Rachel & Tina

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## Mothers Union

The next Holy Communion Service, followed by the meeting, will be held here at Christ Church on Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at the usual time of 10.00am. All are welcome.

The May service will be held at All Saints Church on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup> again at 10.00am.

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The Passover Supper

Again this year we will be celebrating the Passover Supper on Maundy Thursday.

The Passover Supper, also called the Seder, has been celebrated by the Jews since the Exodus. It is the Hebrew Thanksgiving, giving thanks to god for deliverance and redemption. It commemorates the protection of God as the Angel of Death passed over every Hebrew family in Egypt protected by the blood of the Pascal Lamb. It is in this family setting that Jewish children are first introduced to the Book of Exodus as the adults tell the story year after year.

Jesus was celebrating the Passover Supper at the meal we now refer to as The Last Supper. This was the time Jesus chose to announce the New Covenant. And it was at this Seder that Jesus asked all of us to do *this in remembrance of Him*. This year we will use the Passover Supper as our Communion Service and at 8pm there will be a Quiet Hour in the church.

Join us on April 21st at 6:30 pm. Sign-up sheet on the Notice Board.

Deacon Jane



Arithmetic

Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall;
Count your days by golden hours,
Don't remember clouds at all.
Count your nights by stars, not shadows
Count your years by smiles, not tears,
Count your blessings, not your troubles,
Count your age by friends, not years.



Bishop of Grantham's Letter

Dear Friends

I was sent an unusual e-mail the other day: it was a series of colourful slides taken from the Hubble space telescope and from the various probes that have been launched towards our heavenly neighbours. The images are truly magnificent and demonstrate how the countless billions of stars and planets can seem like specks of dust in the vast reaches of the universe, but when they combine together as a galaxy and become massive conglomerations, the size of which are beyond our ability to comprehend and encompass, they appear as massive, vividly coloured bodies resembling the shape of a crab or an ant. One particular image, taken from the Cassini probe, looks back over rings of Saturn to a small blue dot light-years away: it is the planet Earth. The image is accompanied with the following words...

All our wars

All our problems

All our greatness and misery

All our technology

Our art, our advances

All our civilisations

All our wildlife and flora

All races, religions

All governments, countries and states

1 billion souls in constant agitation

It is making the point that a lot of the problems, fears, anxieties and concerns that we have in our everyday life should seem insignificant when we get them into context and realise how small and petty they often are when confronted with the vastness of the universe. I am sure that this is true, and that our natural self-centredness seeks to put us at the centre of creation rather than realising that we are only one tiny part of it. But I wonder how this understanding plays out when we are faced with the ongoing troubles in North Africa and the Middle East? Of course, we must be concerned about the global issues raised by dictatorships and authoritarian governments; about regime change and the ultimate values of justice, peace and equality: these are the great concerns that we must all have and must be prepared to work for. Is there not, though, space for the small, powerless and insignificant? Other words come to my mind

when I ask myself this question: *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet no one of them falls to the ground unperceived by your Father. So do not be afraid, you are of more value than the sparrows.* In the middle of the clashing gongs of world-changing drama, we might also have a care and thought for the little people who are crushed and destroyed as regimes and world-orders fall and rise, for it is they who feel the pain and hurt and whose small moments on Earth are affected for ever.

One of the most important lessons we learnt after the First World War was that we must never have a disregard again for the importance of the life of the individual; no more should we debase humanity by seeing it as cannon fodder. The same fights for the rights of the individual are being played out today, not just in Libya but in our own land as well. In the name of the God who has counted every hair on our heads, the Church needs to be a lively part of that struggle.

With warmest regards

+Tim

The Rt Revd Dr Tim Ellis
Bishop of Grantham

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Update on Jane Holmes

Jane has settled in well and is enjoying the challenges of her five parishes. Can you imagine preparing for five AGM's! By now she has taken at least one service in each church and she is getting to know the parishioners. She has a big garden and enjoys working in it when she has the spare time.

We will go to share a service with Jane in the summer so look out for further information next month.

Deacon Jane

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Calendar

April

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|--|
| Friday | 1 | 1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8 | Befrienders Teenzone – Glee Club Brownies |
| Mothering Sunday Lent 4 | 3 | 10.00 6.30 | King's Praise Holy Communion |
| Monday | 4 | 1-3 5.30-6.15 7-9 | Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides |
| Tuesday | 5 | | |
| Wednesday | 6 | 9-3 11.15 6.30-8.30 | Day Centre Holy Communion Teenzone Dance |
| Thursday | 7 | 9.30 1-3 | Toddlers Twinklets |
| Friday | 8 | 1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8 | Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies |
| Sunday Lent 5 | 10 | 10.00 11.30 6.30 | Holy Communion Annual General Meeting Evensong |
| Monday | 11 | 1-3 5.30-6.15 | Befrienders Teenzone Drama |
| Tuesday | 12 | | |
| Wednesday | 13 | 6.30-8.30 | Teenzone Dance |
| Thursday | 14 | 1-3 | Twinklets |
| Friday | 15 | 1-3 4.30-5.30 | Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club |
| Palm Sunday | 17 | 10.00 6.30 | King's Praise distribution of Palm Crosses Holy Communion |
| HOLY WEEK | | | |
| Monday | 18 | 5.30-6.15 | Teenzone Drama |

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|------------------------|-----------|--------------|--|
| | | 7.30 | Compline |
| Tuesday | 19 | 7.30 | Compline |
| Wednesday | 20 | 11:15 | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30-8.30 | Teenzone Dance |
| | | 7.30 | Compline |
| Maundy Thursday | 21 | 6.30 | Passover Supper |
| | | 8.00 | Quiet Hour “Will you not watch with me one hour?” |
| Good Friday | 22 | 9.00 | Meditation on the Passion |
| | | 12.00 | Procession of Witness |
| | | | (Town Centre) |
| Easter Sunday | 24 | 10.00 | Easter Family Communion |
| | | 6.30 | Easter Songs of Praise |

Easter Week – reduced activities in the Church Centre

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-----------|----------------|
| Wednesday | 27 | 9-3.00 | Day Centre |
| | | 6.30-8.30 | Teenzone Dance |
| Thursday | 28 | 9.30 | Toddler Group |
| | | 1-3 | Twinklets |
| Friday | 29 | | |

May

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday | 1 | 10.00 | Holy Communion |
| | | 6.30 | Evensong |

Basement

Regular term time Programme for the Basement

| | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------|
| Monday | 5-7 | Teenzone |
| | 7-9.3 | Teenzone sports @ QE |
| Wednesday | 4-5 | Teenzone table tennis |
| | 5-7 | Teenzone |
| | 7-8.30 | Teenzone |
| Thursday | 1-3 | Befrienders |
| Friday | 5-7 | Rainbows |
| | 7.3-10 | Teenzone |

- See weekly notices for details of all events

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## Cat's Tail

Hi Family,

I have enjoyed the brief sunshine; sunbathing on the back steps. I was saved from starvation by Nan Ruth when some naughty person filled my food bowl with gravel. I'm well looked after by all! Thank you to those who have donated some lovely food! I do enjoy it.  
Luvs you all!

MD

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An Unknown Veteran's Prayer

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve,
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.
I asked for health, that I might do greater things,
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.
I asked for riches, that I might be happy,
I was given poverty, that I might be wise.
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of people,
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God.
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life,
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.
I got nothing that I asked for – but everything I had hoped for.
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.
I am among all people, most richly blessed.

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