

June Magazine

Dear friends at Christ Church,

As many of you will know I am just back from a walking holiday in the Pyrenees. We had a great time, but the best news was finding that we were both physically fit. We, my wife and I, managed all the walks and did most of them at some speed, when compared with the rest of the SAGA Party. This physical fitness was partly because I had done a sponsored slim during Lent. The lost weight accounted for much of the speed with which I walked and helped with the stamina. Thank you for the money received (over £300 at the moment) for Christ Church funds. That is about my physical fitness. I don't know how you feel about your fitness. Perhaps you could join the Tuesday afternoon Fun and Fitness group here at Christ Church. I do think it is important that we keep a check on our physical fitness.

There is another side to our fitness. I mean of course our spiritual fitness. How do you feel about that? I find it helpful to carry out a personal review of my spiritual fitness. I look at three things. My Bible reading, my prayer life and thirdly my connection with fellow Christians. Like my physical fitness, it is good to check how you are doing in comparison with others, not as a challenge but just to see how you are getting along. I might have thought I was fit but it was helpful to check myself against other people. It is very hard to be a Christian on one's own; we need others to help us on our journey. Bible reading, how are you doing?? I do believe that we all need to do daily bible reading. I always use a set of Bible notes. If you have been using the same one for years and years, why not try a different set of notes? We really do need the word of God each and every day. Finally check your prayer life. I have a set time when I do my daily prayer time. It is early in the morning. But it is important for everyone to work out which is the best time of day for them and to set time aside for it. Ten minutes or an hour, it is so important to find the best time and commit it to God.

Physical and spiritual fitness are both as important as each other. As we grow older our physical fitness declines but I have known many elderly citizens whose spiritual life has become really active and alive. So here is a message for us all: do check your spiritual fitness on a regular basis.

Yours in Christ, Peter Hart.

Licensing of Martyn Taylor

Dear Friends,

I hope that you have got 7:30pm on June 15th in your diary for my licensing by the Bishop of Grantham as Priest in Charge of Christ Church. I am really looking forward to this occasion where the Bishop of Grantham will also recognise and authorise Mike Mills as the Operations Manager for the social projects and Paul Darley as a lay reader.

I am really enjoying the new responsibility of helping to look after Christ Church and am indebted to the great team who enable everything to happen. The formalisation of the partnership signified in my licensing points to our commitment as Christ Church and St George's to work together for the glory of Christ in our local community.

With love in Christ,

Martyn.

Parish Registers

Baptism

February 22 nd	Arron David Lee Christopher James Lee
March 20 th	Lennon John Arthur Malkin
March 27 th	Harrison Jay Field

Funeral

May 23 rd	Mary Potter
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Collections

	Open Plate	Env/Gift Aid	Env. (NTP)
April:	£283.99	£920.50	£203.50

Gail

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## 200 Club

Draw result for April,

1<sup>st</sup>: No. 29,    2<sup>nd</sup>: No. 107

The May and June draws will take place on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> respectively during Day Centre meetings.

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July / August Magazine

Could all entries for the above **double edition** of the magazine be given to me by Sunday, June 19th. Publication will be the following Sunday, June 26th. Remember events and items for August need to be included!

Jane Richardson.

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## Bits and Pieces

**Jane Holmes**

Jane will be with us for the 10 am service next Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. She will be taking part in the service itself and afterwards tea and coffee will be available so if you would like to see and chat to her do come along.

On Sunday July 31<sup>st</sup> we are planning to travel to Gayton to attend a service led by Jane Holmes. The service is at 11 am which means we will need to leave around 9:30 am. We hope to have lunch at the Crown in Gayton after the service. There is now a 'sign up' list in the entrance hall;

**please sign up by Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at the very latest** as we need to know numbers for the coach and lunch. There will be a charge but that will depend on the number going. If you have any questions please see Jane C.

As we're sure most people will wish to go on this trip there will be no 10.00am Communion Service at Christ Church that morning. The Evensong Service, at the usual time of 6.30pm, will now include Holy Communion.

### **PCC Members**

At the latest PCC meeting it was agreed that names of all, and contact details of the officers, of the PCC would be published in this magazine. The 'photo board' has also been updated so if you're not sure who's who take a look, it hangs between the church door and choir vestry/office door. For ease of reference I've printed the list at back of magazine so, once magazine is read, the list can be removed and saved!

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Team Building Day for the leaders of Christ Church Outreach

Tuesday 10th May 2011

With Mike Mills very much on board (as you can see from the photo in more ways than one!) it was an ideal opportunity for us to come together as a team and where better than on our door step - Rutland water!

Thanks to Emily's forward planning, in two teams, we had the mammoth task of constructing a tower using just cellotape and paper; there were no prizes for being on the winning team just the glory! A prize was at stake for the game 'pin the tail on the donkey' and the pressure was on. With the guidance of your partner you were instructed where to place the tail; with clear and concise instructions from Mike Mills, Peter Hart was the winner – his tail was pinned with precision!

Having agreed in advance what we should contribute to the picnic we all thoroughly enjoyed a wonderful spread and the opportunity to chat together as friends. The day concluded with a cruise round Rutland Water

on the 'Rutland Belle', this was a new experience for many of us and one we would highly recommend, A great day was had by all!

Our mission at Christ Church 'to be a welcoming church, open to God and one another where everyone is valued' remains the focus of our outreach work and together we will continue to serve our church family and the local community.



(Mike Mills may look innocent and smiley! but he terrorized us throughout the day with his water pistol which he had cunningly disguised about his person! We feel it is our duty as responsible project managers of Christ Church to ensure that others are made aware of Mr Mills' antics to safeguard future social activities which he may attend! Let's face it, if we hadn't had our wits about us, it could have ended in a water bath!!)

Katie Blay.

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# Hardship Fund

Christ Church has decided to establish a Hardship Fund to;

(i) assist particularly needy members of the church family to overcome financial barriers in accessing any church-related activities and programmes;

(ii) provide modest and temporary funding to members of the church family in extreme and unusual cases of financial hardship; and

(iii) demonstrate God's love in practical ways, through funding services and care for those in exceptional poverty or need.

It is intended to benefit members of Christ Church or others in the local community who are particularly close to the church, and the support to be provided will depend on the amount of money put into the Fund and the applications made. It is expected that most of the awards would be small, covering for example the cost of attendance in Christian-related programmes, activities and/or summer camps; but grants could also be made in cases of special or extreme need. The Fund will be resourced by donations from individual church family members or friends of the church, any allocations approved by the PCC and/or gifts from other churches or partners.

In applying for any support, strict confidentiality will be maintained; applications will be made to the church wardens who will make recommendations to the Priest-in-Charge; and decisions will be taken by him (though in consultation with the PCC in larger cases). The accounting of the Fund will be done in conjunction with the Church Treasurer, and there will be an annual review of the Fund by the PCC.

Mike Mills.

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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, June 2nd at the usual time of 10.00am. All are welcome.

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# Timothy Dickens

It was lovely to see Tim and Elizabeth with us on May 15<sup>th</sup> when they visited the church and were able to meet old friends. Tim kindly donated a photograph album and DVD of Christ Church to the church and we are very grateful to him for doing so.

Many thanks to the ladies who put on the refreshments that day – it was very much appreciated.

## Daphne and Peter Wise.



## Fundraising

### **Friday Market Stall, June 17<sup>th</sup>**

The stall will be from 7.00-4.00 so if you are able to offer an hour or more of your time to 'man the stall' please add your name to the list which is now up in the entrance hall.

If anyone is able to make cakes, biscuits or preserves for the stall, or has any plants, good quality bric-a-brac or books these need to be brought to church the night before, June 16<sup>th</sup> between 6.30-7pm. (Alternatively if you are coming along to Martyn Taylor's licensing on the Wednesday evening you could bring any items then and hand them to members of the committee who will be attending.) Any items suitable for Tombola prizes would also be appreciated.

If you are not able to bring your goods to church please speak to a member of the fundraising group.

We do hope you will support this venture as we desperately need funds to enable us to refurbish the church to have it looking it's best for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This will entail totally re-plastering the altar wall, repainting the church and hall and providing new curtains and blinds for all windows in the hall. We have estimated the cost will be in the region of £10,000.

We would like to thank the Church Ladies Association for donating £1500 towards the cost of the curtains and blinds. This is a great help and with other donations received means we already have well over £2000! We are sure with your help and prayers we can achieve our goal.

## **Fund raising quiz for the Street Pastors**

This is being organised by St Geo's and will be held here at Christ Church. At 7.30pm on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June. Cost is £5 per person, with teams of 6 people. For more information speak to Mike Mills or Peter Hart.

## **Strawberry Tea Afternoon**

This event which was originally going to be held in mid July is now taking place on **Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> from 2-4.00pm**. Please make a note of the new date in your diaries. Full details next month.

## **Sponsorship Monies**

We still haven't 'gathered in' all the money for the sponsored slims which took place in Lent. If you haven't yet paid please do so as soon as you can and then we can announce the total next month.

**Dawn, Helen, Jane's H and R.**

**Fundraising Committee.**

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Day Centre

We thoroughly enjoyed Chris Thorley's afternoon of local history and Louise Marsh's talk on the work of the Evergreen Care Trust during May.

Mary Noble was delighted with her 101st Birthday celebrations at the Day Centre topped off with a visit from Jane Calderin and a musical afternoon provided by Alex Naylor which always proves very popular with members.

The Day Centre will be closed on June 1st for the half term break.

The next Day Centre Communion takes place on June 8th at 11.15am. and the Foot Health Practitioner will be with us on June 15th.

Amy & Carolyn .

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## Fun and Fitness

Our group is still going strong but we do have two vacancies (if anyone would like to join us) now that Beryl has moved to Sheffield (we were sorry to see her go!) and another member has had to leave due to ill-health.

Vera Davies has had a nasty fall and broken her arm so we wish her a speedy recovery.

We break up for the summer on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

God Bless,

Daphne and Peter Wise,      Group co-ordinators.

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## Working with Families

### Toddlers

We have had another new baby join our group, Archie born on April 30<sup>th</sup>. He's a bonny little man!

We have made 'Myrtle the Turtle' among other things and have had some very nice ladies come along and help us make 'chatterboxes' with books and toys.

We also have a new member of our volunteers – Grandad Brian. We're very pleased to have him as he helps to bring in the toys, sets up and puts them away again!

We're off on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> for half-term so hope to see everyone again on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Granny Ruth and the gang.

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# Bishop of Grantham's Letter

## **The Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head...**

A routine conversation, with a well-dressed, groomed and beautifully spoken young man, revealed a surprising story: he had just got away from sleeping on the streets as a homeless man. There was no drug or alcohol abuse involved here, and there were no mental health issues; the young man had split up with his long-time partner and was forced to leave his flat in order to sever the relationship. Poorly paid in part-time employment, he could not afford a hotel room still less the deposit for a new flat or house. The answer was a tent on the riverside. Thankfully, this young man has now found better paid work and, being quite simple in everyday needs, has also got a new flat. He is one of the lucky ones. A recent Rowntree Foundation report (why not Google it?) suggests that around 75,000 young people become homeless each year, but the figures are difficult because only the folk who stay in touch with the agencies can be counted. Not all of these young people are sleeping rough as many are 'sofa surfing' and sleeping in friends' homes on floors, but evidence suggests that a majority do spend at least a short period sleeping on the streets. Further studies make a significant link between homelessness and depression, familial violence and abuse and bereavement. The situation is exacerbated by the fact that there is a considerable social stigma attached to homelessness: amidst our pity, there is always the lurking suspicion that people have brought this upon themselves, deserve it because of bad management or actually like living an irresponsible life.

Homelessness in our own county of Lincolnshire is not as great a problem as elsewhere in the country, but it still exists and it is incumbent upon us to take it seriously. The Lincolnshire pattern is also what you may expect, with 6 homeless householders per 1000 in East Lindsey whereas South Holland has around 1.4 per 1000. As always, if we are not careful, out of sight can mean out of mind and we feel there is little we can do or say. Matters are made worse by the knowledge that support agencies like Lincoln MIND are now closing their doors because of recessionary cuts in funding. As economic factors kick in, the problem of homelessness and its attendant issues of mental and physical health and well-being are set fair to get worse.

So what to do? Well first, as Christian folk following one who famously declared that he had 'nowhere to lay his head', we can simply care and be the ones who recognise, not just that there is a homelessness problem in this country and our county, but also that homelessness happens to flesh

and blood human beings like you and me and that 'there but for fortune go you or I'. In addition, there is good evidence that the various charitable organisations such as NOMAD and the YMCA do actually make a considerable positive contribution to supporting and helping the homeless through their problems and into homes. We can support them financially and they would be worthy recipients of giving from local parish church communities. However, all of this is first-aid and cannot address the long-term problem alone: this takes the political will of the people of our county to demand investment into new home building, particularly in our rural areas, and to support our local Authorities in trying to meet the demands of the Homelessness Act of 2002. These are questions we need to put to those in power in our country and land.

**+Tim.**

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Thanks! (x2)

Barbara Morley would like to say a big 'thankyou' to everyone for the prayers, flowers, cards and visits during her recuperation from a knee operation.

She says we do not realise how lucky we are to have such an extended family at Christ church until we are poorly and once again would like to say a big thankyou!

Vera Davies would like to thank everyone for their good wishes following her fall in which she broke her right arm. She is now in Tallington Rest Home recuperating.

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**Cat's Tail**

Hi family, I'm still here keeping an eye on the place! Travis was very pleased I let him make friends at last. I do tend to be very cautious! Friends tend not to tickle my tummy when I roll over so graciously. I guess the claws are a give-away. Love you all, **M.D.**

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Calendar

June

Thursday	2	7.30	Horticultural Society
Saturday	4	7.30	Street Pastor Quiz
Sunday	5	10.00 6.30	Holy Communion Evensong
Monday	6	1-3 6.30 7-9	Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides
Tuesday	7	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	8	9-3.00 11.15 6-8.30	Day Centre Day Centre Communion Teenzone Dance
Thursday	9	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
Friday	10	1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies
Sunday Pentecost	12	10.00 11.30 6.30	Holy Communion Kings Café Pentecost Praise
Monday	13	1-3 6.30 7-9	Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides
Tuesday	14	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	15	9-3.00 12.30-8.00	Day Centre Open Day
		7.30	Licensing of Martyn Taylor as Priest in Charge at Christ Church, Paul Darley as Lay Reader and Mike Mills as Operations Manager
Thursday	16	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
Friday	17	1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies

Trinity Sunday	19	10.00 6.30	Holy Communion Evensong
Monday	20	1-3 6.30 7-9	Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides
Tuesday	21	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	22	9-3.00 6-8.30	Day Centre Teenzone Dance
Thursday	23	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
Friday	24	1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies
Sunday	26	10.00 4.30	King's Praise Stamford Festival Service at Recreation Ground
Monday	27	1-3 6.30 7-9	Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides
Tuesday	28	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	29	9-3.00 6-8.30	Day Centre Teenzone Dance
Thursday	30	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets

Basement

Regular term time Programme for the Basement

Monday	12.3-3.3 5-7 7-9.3	Stroke Association (every other week) Teenzone Teenzone sports @ QE
Wednesday	4-5 5-7	Teenzone table tennis Teenzone
Thursday	1-3	Befrienders
Friday	5-7 7.3-10	Rainbows Teenzone

- See weekly notices for details of all events

The Silent Sermon

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the preacher decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The preacher found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his preacher's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace.....and waited.

The preacher made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the preacher took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone, then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The preacher glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the preacher reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little.

Consequently, few listen.

Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

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# Tap on the Shoulder!

A true story from the pages of the Manchester Evening Times

*Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Salford station leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.*

*The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window. For a few moments everything was silent in the cab.*

*Then the shaking driver said "Are you okay. I'm so sorry but you scared the daylights out of me. The badly shaken passenger apologised to the driver and said, "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."*

*The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault.*

*Today is my very first day driving a cab.....*

*I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years."*

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**Give me a sense of humor, Lord,
Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And pass it on to others!**

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# PCC Members List

**Name**

**E-mail address**

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