

# March Magazine

## **LENT IS HERE.**

I am intrigued by the fact that when I am involved with a church, I find myself caught up in the church's calendar. It was Christmas, then Epiphany and the Sundays following. We then have Sundays which lead up to Lent. They have, or used to have, strange names like Quinquagesima or Sexagesima!! Then it is Lent and after that comes Easter and Pentecost. The church's year seems to rush by taking us along with it. I often want to shout stop, so that I can think a little while about what is happening at each stage along the journey.

So we have just about arrived in Lent. It starts on Ash Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, which is two days after my late father's birthday. He said he had always had his birthday in Lent. He had never missed it during his life. So you will see that this year it is about as late as it is possible to have Lent starting. I suggest you use Lent as one of those times when you stop a while and spend some time thinking about the season. Traditionally Lent was a time to give up something. Many years ago now, I gave up smoking my pipe for Lent and I have never started again, I am pleased to say. So this Lent instead of giving up something why not decide to do something a bit extra. Perhaps you don't have a regular Bible reading time or perhaps you don't use Bible reading notes. Why not use Lent to start or build up your time of listening to God. Perhaps you could go down to CLC (the Christian Book Shop in town) and select a book to read during Lent. Lent is also a time to look at yourself and be a bit critical of how you are doing. This time of personal reflection might lead you to a time of repentance. Please ask God what it is he wants you to do, which is a bit extra.

During Lent we also have some important Sundays. Mothering Sunday is on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will be asking the PCC for permission to change the order of services slightly and have a Kings Praise on that Sunday. Palm Sunday, on 17<sup>th</sup>, April is also another important day, starting Holy Week. In Holy Week we have two other important days Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Then follows the wonderful celebration of Easter, when we remember and give thanks that Jesus was raised from the dead and is alive today. What a marvelous celebration that is going to be this year, especially if you have enjoyed a good Lenten season.

I do so hope that these days up to Easter will give you real joy as you think about what Jesus means to you. May God give you a marvelous time, which you can enjoy with family and friends.

**Blessings, Peter.**



**Dear Friends,**

I wanted to say thank you for your welcome to my first visits to Christ Church Sunday services over February when Peter was away. It was good to break bread with you and chat with some of you after the services. Please forgive me if I do not remember everyones name to start with, but I am certainly starting to recognize your warm and friendly faces. I will be coming up to Christ Church again on Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> to lead and preach and will continue to pop in and out during the week.

For your encouragement we have had a joint meeting of the staff team at St George's and Christ Church and my plan for the next little while is for us to have a joint staff meeting on the third Monday of the month. This will help the teams to get to know each other better and for us all to get a better understanding of the different things we are doing in the church and local community to serve the Lord Jesus and local people.

Love in Christ,

**Martyn.**



### **Collections**

	<b>Open Plate</b>	<b>Env/Gift Aid</b>	<b>Env. (NTP)</b>
<b>January :</b>	£463.38	£691.50	£317.00

Donation given of £30.

**Gail**



## April Magazine / Subscription

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to me by Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Publication will be the following Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup>.

Subscriptions for the magazine are due in April. The cost is to remain at 50p per copy. For those who have the magazine delivered your £5 subscription will be collected on delivery of the above magazine.

Jane Richardson.

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### 200 Club

Draw result for February,

1<sup>st</sup>: No. 118, 2<sup>nd</sup>: No. 131

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> during the Day Centre meeting.

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### Fundraising

As mentioned last month we have many events planned for this year and are able to confirm dates for some of these;

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

We hope as many of you will come along and support us in these ventures as monies raised will go towards the Fabric fund which, this year, will be used to repair and paint the church and hall as well as replacing all the curtains in the hall. We need to look good for our anniversary!!!

Keep reading the magazine to find out more details of events as we near the time for each.

We are also grateful to Peter Hart who has agreed to help with our fundraising by taking part in a 'sponsored weight loss' during Lent. The idea is that Peter has a 'weigh-in' on Ash Wednesday during the Day Centre and for every 'pound' he loses during Lent he is seeking sponsorship. A form will be up in the entrance hall so do sign up and lets hope Peter is keen to slim down and raise funds for the church refurbishment!

As mentioned earlier we are going to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christ Church over a whole weekend in October. Ideas are still in their infancy but we hope to include a showcase of all that has gone on at Christ Church over the years on the Saturday and a Service of Celebration on the Sunday followed by refreshments (possibly a lunch!)

We hope to form a group who will co-ordinate everything so if you would like to participate in this venture please speak to one of the Fundraising Committee, Church warden or Deacon Jane.

And get your thinking heads on as Worzel Gummidge would say. We need lots of input about the life here, at Green Lane and Willoughby Road, over the last 50 years! Of the people who have made a difference, the events, happenings – anything that will help bring the past to 'life'. We're sure there are lots of stories out there!!!

Hopefully this will be a wonderful time of friendship, of sharing stories and maybe even meeting 'old' faces – who knows!

## Fundraising Committee.



### Jane's Licensing in Gayton

On Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> I joined other members of Christ Church to travel in the minibus to Gayton in Norfolk to take part in the service and witness the Rev. Jane Holmes receive her license from the Bishop of Norwich for her to be able to preach in five parishes and hamlets in that area. Her lovely smile, when she saw us, made me feel so pleased I had made the effort to go.

After the service I had a chat to a quite elderly priest who had been taking the services whilst they had been without a priest and she said she would

help Jane for several months to come as well as two Lay Readers who she could also turn to. I sat in a side pew and could not hear all the Bishops address but he did give Jane a warm welcome.

The church is old and very cold! built of flint and brick. I have found out that a Benedictine Priory used to stand on the site which was founded in the time of William the Conqueror. (I have also found out from reading my 'Comprehensive Gazetteer' that in 1891 the yearly value of the vicar was £223 per annum. I'm sure Jane is hoping for better!)

We arrived back in Stamford just after midnight after a rather eventful return trip!

Ruth Ashton.

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## An Adventure in Deepest Norfolk!

The forecast was good, the expedition party had assembled in good time, all thirteen intrepid explorers were primed and ready to carry out the mission. Captain Colin opened up the throttle and we were off. The transport plane, I mean minibus! soon reached a comfortable cruising speed and altitude as we started to leave Lincolnshire behind passing briefly over the Cambridgeshire countryside. We encountered no enemy fire with the captain safely at the controls. As we approached the border with Norfolk the intercom suddenly burst into life. Had we remembered our passports the Border Patrol inquired? Co pilot Dawn radioed back that we had a collective group passport as we were going to Gayton for Jane Holmes' licensing and installation as priest in charge of the Gayton Group of Parishes.

We were ordered to pull into the nearest passport control office which was cunningly disguised as a service station on the outskirts of Kings Lynn. Under the pretext of a comfort break I went to the office and our papers were stamped allowing us to enter Norfolk's air space. The rest of the journey passed uneventfully until we finally arrived at Gayton airport (car park).

After disembarking we marched through the car park and entered the very attractive church of St Nicholas. We reported for duty as onlookers and supporters, receiving a very friendly welcome. It was a very good service

which ran with military precision and contrary to popular belief there were no problems with the language!

After the licensing we took full advantage of the refreshments and the opportunity to say hello to Jane and to enjoy fellowship with the large congregation.

As we took off from Gayton our e.t.a. in Stamford was 22.35 hours but we hadn't allowed for the Norfolk Border Patrol (N.B.P.). Clearly having allowed us into the deep recesses of the county of Norfolk they were reluctant to let us escape because they kept planting DIVERSION signs ahead of us. This was very confusing in the dark and we kept returning to Downham Market. The first time it was amusing and someone remarked that they had always wanted to go to Downham Market; but four times in one night was a little excessive! The N.B.P. were very clever and kept switching the road signs around so that whenever we tried to leave Downham Market we kept coming back. This was very disorientating and confusing so we aimed for the Police Station hoping to get directions. Unfortunately the N.B.P. had beaten us to it and no one answered the bell!

Luckily the intercom burst into life with revised flight plans and off we went, though when we passed a sign to 'Denver' Ron wondered if we were on the right continent! Gradually the narrow twisting B roads grew wider, straighter and at times were even lit! Our revised e.t.a. was now 23.58 hours; but were the troops dispirited? No not a bit of it, in best British forces tradition they broke out in song to keep the spirits up and soon we reached civilisation, well an A road anyway!

Eventually we landed in Stamford just before midnight in the pouring rain. It was certainly a night to remember and perhaps will go down in history as 'The Great Escape from Norfolk!!'

Chris.

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## "Holiday on Ice" had it all!

Thirty volunteers from Christ Church were kindly invited to the "Holiday on Ice" show at Peterborough on February 3rd, courtesy of Anna's Hope charity..... and what a wonderful time they had!

The advertising blurb for the show called “Energia” promised an ‘exhilarating journey through the cosmos, through the use of back flips, triple axels and the “death spiral” in the performers’ routines. And it certainly delivered all of that, plus masses of enjoyment, for everyone lucky enough to be there.

There was comedy in the form of two clowns, Ein and Stein, who provided the in-fills between scenes.

There was spectacle with the wonderful effects and props and performers on stilts.

There were nail-biting moments, when the skaters performed wearing fiery head-dresses and jumped through blazing hoops.

There was glamour with the spectacular costumes.

There was excellent ice-skating and dancing to different styles of music by the performers, who came from over 20 different countries.

And as it was a gala performance, the audience was treated to a very special addition to the normal programme. Ten talented youngsters, aged 12-17 from Peterborough, also performed a very impressive routine on the ice arena.

The performance supported Anna's Hope and Have a Heart charities, and cheques were presented to representatives of each.

The volunteers were very grateful to be driven to the show in the minibuses and cars, and at least one of the drivers was treated to beautiful singing on the way home!

**Kitty Beck.**

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## Women’s World Day of Prayer

This years Service will be held in All Saint’s Church on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm. The Reader will be Eileen Bungay and the Leader Stella Langdon-Davies. All are welcome.

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# Community Car Scheme Update

Hi Everyone,

We are very pleased to inform you that the Car Scheme has had a great start to 2011 and despite the struggle that we are all experiencing at the moment due to the recession, it is going from strength to strength.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2011, the Community Car Scheme achieved a very important milestone in that it completed its 20,000th journey. Mrs. Edith Cope, a member of the scheme for the past 4 years and one of its most regular passengers was given a free return journey of her choice and was driven by volunteer Margaret Copeland, who with her husband Mick, has been driving for the scheme since it started. We had a small celebration here at Christ Church to mark the occasion and this was covered by the local media, resulting in us being featured on the front page of the Citizen and having an extensive write up in the Stamford Mercury too!

Currently the scheme has over 400 members and 35 volunteer car drivers and office coordinators. These dedicated volunteers kindly continue to donate many hours of their time weekly to support the scheme. In addition, we have had some financial support recently via donations from the Royal Naval Association, the Barnack Horticultural Society and the 20-49 Stamford Car Club and although we are a non-profit making operation, the car scheme's bank account is looking quite healthy now!

With regards to the Special Vehicle (SV) project, this was due to finish next month but the project has now been extended and last week Lincolnshire County Council confirmed a further £5000 grant would be made available to us to enable the SV project to continue past its initial trial period of 12 months. This is splendid news and it means that we are able to keep Geraldine on in the team.

We are continuously looking at ways to increase the use of the minibus in the Stamford area and need volunteer drivers to help us to achieve this. If you are interested in either hiring the minibus or helping the scheme in any way, please contact Geraldine on 0795046409 or phone the office number on 01780 482380.

Until next time, my best wishes to you all.

Sandy.x

# Fun and Fitness Group

The group is running well at the moment although a good number are or have been off poorly.

We return after our half term break on the 1<sup>st</sup> March (due to the rearrangement of our dates) and run until 29<sup>th</sup> March when we break for Easter. We restart rather late on the 10<sup>th</sup> May and run for another 8 weeks until the 28<sup>th</sup> June when we break for summer.

If you are interested in joining the group, please contact us.

Daphne and Peter Wise, (Group coordinators), on St. 751789.



## Day Centre

We were delighted to see Day Centre Member Edna Fessey celebrate her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday at the beginning of February, an incredible milestone. Sadly, Edna wasn't well enough to celebrate with us on the Wednesday following her 'big day' but we look forward to doing so on her return.

In March we have a range of entertainments, some new and one we will be welcoming back. Rev Martyn Taylor is showing slides of Uganda on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 9<sup>th</sup> will see Jack Wright give a short cookery demonstration of quick, tasty and economical meals, Tim Mackrill visits on the 16<sup>th</sup> to talk about the Rutland Osprey Project and finally on the 30<sup>th</sup> Rev Dave Maylor will play guitar and organise a sing-a-long.

The Foot Health Practitioner will be with us on March 2nd at 10am.

The next Day Centre Communion takes place on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 11.15am.

Amy and Carolyn.



# Mothers Union

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2011, MU members attended a communion service at St Mary's Church, conducted by Fr. Michael Roff. Our speaker, after the service, was Gill Burt, who first gave a potted history of Turkey, the Biblical history - with references to Noah's Ark, the Hittites and the strong references to Turkey in the New Testament. How Christianity made good progress in this region until the seventh century when Islam began to spread after the death of Mohammed.

Gills connection with Turkey came after a family holiday there and how the family felt oppressed that there wasn't any place for Christian worship. Having made enquiries they eventually were given the name of a lady in Fethiye who passed them on to an American pastor. This church began 5 years ago when two English ladies met and felt the call to serve God. Gill and her husband have a flat in Fethiye and spend several months there each year. They have seen the congregation grow to 60 people worshipping in the Tourist season. However, the police have been known to arrest Christian workers and one charge was "Insulting Turkishness." Gill says that God is working in this country and those working there would appreciate our prayers for their safety.

Our next Holy Communion service will be at St George's Church on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> followed by a talk from their curate David Oxtoby, who will tell us a bit about himself and his family.

**Sylvia Clayton.      M.U. member.**



## Working with Families

### **Kings Café Recap, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

We started our cafe this month with a puzzle page to do as the children arrived. This month we had David Oxtoby leading our cafe. Our first two songs were:

‘God’s Love’ followed by ‘Let there be love’.

David then welcomed everyone to Kings Cafe, read the scripture reading for the day and said the opening prayer. We had family time in which the children were asked if anything had happened in the past month.

We said our confessions next; we then had our third song: God forgave my sin.

We then had our reading which was taken from 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 followed by a 'talky bit'. Next we had our craft time in which we built a church which at one end had a tower and the other end had a cross shaped window. After everyone had finished their craft we had our prayers and Collect for the day.

We finished with these two songs: Bind us together Lord and also God's Love.

We then ate our final doughnuts.

Our next Kings Cafe is on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 11:30  
in the basement.....See you there!

Leah Oliver.

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## **Toddlers**

The children made Valentine Cards for mums and dads, grannies and granddads. They were very popular! So were the cats and dogs we made with wobbly eyes!

Aunty Barbara is going into hospital in March to have her wobbly knee sorted out. She'll be back with us as soon as she is able.

We look forward to welcoming some new babies before too long.

See you all after half term.

Nanny Ruth, Aunties Barbara, Tina and Rachel.

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# Bishop of Grimsby's Letter

Dear Friends,

As the effects of the recent recession and the Government's actions to reduce the budget deficit impact on peoples' lives, levels of uncertainty are growing. Locally, with a significant dependence on government or local authority spending, the depth of uncertainty becomes evident in the course of many conversations.

If it is not uncertainty about one's own job, it is uncertainty about the employment prospects for children and grandchildren. Alongside many inequalities which come when you are on the 'losing side of the economy' - living with the uncertainty of possible redundancy, no jobs, low income and waiting for an upturn in the economy is a driver for despair. Against this background of uncertainty, we have to ask what is the Good News that we can offer out of our faith? Have Christians got more than words of comfort?

Well I believe that we do indeed have much to offer which is tangible, but it starts with the truth, frequently ignored, that in the Bible the opposite of uncertainty is not 'certainty' but 'direction'. Faith points us in the direction for finding what is essential – the direction for finding truth. Uncertainty in life means that the way ahead become featureless and the normal patterns of life no longer give shape to the future.

Yet at the heart of our faith we discover that relationships are the enduring features and landmarks which give texture to our lives and from which we can find direction. It feels very obvious to say that there is more to us than our work, but in times of uncertainty and despair, the obvious needs restating and experiencing.

We make many claims that our church buildings are at the heart of the community. In times of uncertainty we can demonstrate the truth of this by using them as places of meeting and encounter for those seeking direction and a rebalancing of their lives. There are many examples of how this has been achieved such as drop-ins, CV writing groups, debt counseling etc. They have enabled the church to be there in times of uncertainty, offering the texture of relationships to help move people from uncertainty to finding a direction when all seems lost.

*+David Grimsby*

# Calendar

## March

Tuesday	1	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	2	9-3	Day Centre
		6.30-8.30	Teenzone Dance
Thursday	3	9.30	Toddlers
		1-3	Twinklets
		7.30	Horticultural Society
Friday	4	1-3	Befrienders
		2.30	Women's World of Prayer Service at All Saints Church
		4.30-5.30	Teenzone Glee Club
		6-8	Brownies
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Next to Lent</b>		<b>6.30</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
Monday	7	1-3	Befrienders
		5.30-6.15	Teenzone Drama
		5-8	Guides
Tuesday	8	2.30	Fun and Fitness
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>9</b>	9-3	Day Centre
		<b>11.15</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
		<b>7.0</b>	<b>Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes</b>
		6.30-8.30	Teenzone Dance
Thursday	10	9.30	Toddlers
		5-8	Twinklets
Friday	11	1-3	Befrienders
		4.30-5.30	Teenzone Glee Club
		5-8	Brownies
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>
<b>Lent 1</b>		<b>6.30</b>	<b>Evensong</b>
Monday	14	1-3	Befrienders
		5.30-6.15	Teenzone Drama
		7-9	Guides
Tuesday	15	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	16	9-3	Day Centre
		6.30-8.30	Teenzone Dance

Thursday	17	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
Friday	18	1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies
<b>Sunday Lent 2</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10.00 6.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion Evensong</b>
Monday	21	1-3 5.30 7-9	Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides
Tuesday	22	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	23	9-3 6.30-8.30	Day Centre Teenzone Dance
Thursday	24	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
Friday	25	1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies
<b>Sunday Lent 3</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>10.00 2.30 6.30</b>	<b>Holy Communion Baptism Evensong</b>
Monday	28	1-3 5.30 7-9	Befrienders Teenzone Drama Guides
Tuesday	29	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	30	9-3 6.30-8.30	Day Centre Teenzone Dance
Thursday	31	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
<b>April</b>			
Friday	1	1-3 4.30-5.30 6-8	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club Brownies
<b>Mothering Sunday 3 Lent 4</b>		<b>10.00 6.30</b>	<b>Kings Praise Evensong</b>

## Basement

### Regular term time Programme for the Basement

Monday	12.3-3.3	Stroke Association (every other week)
	5-7	Teenzone
	7-9.30	Teenzone sports @ QE
Wednesday	4-5	Teenzone table tennis
	5-7	Teenzone
	7-8.30	Teenzone
Thursday	1-3	Befrienders
Friday	5-7	Rainbows
	7.30-10	Teenzone

- See weekly notices for details of all events

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## Cat Tails!

Hi Family!

Joined Evensong on February 13<sup>th</sup> and was on my best behaviour – I slept right through. I don't join the Toddlers though as they are too much for my constitution!

I need a slight repair to my 'box' insulation but otherwise everything is 'tickerty boo'

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

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## Christian One Liners!

*People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church!*

*When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.*

*Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.*

*Peace starts with a smile.*

*The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close!*



*Fun 4 All Improving memories everyday*

60 Edinburgh Road  
Stamford  
Lincs  
PE9 1JS  
[funfourall@ymail.com](mailto:funfourall@ymail.com)

Who are we I hear you ask. We are Fun 4 All, a volunteer group set up to raise money for the Stamford Children's Centre.

Since the government has cut funding from Children's Centres across the country, many have had to close and more have lost the use of many vital services that they provided. The main one that Stamford has lost has been the ability to organise day trips that ran during the summer holidays. Those trips gave parents, and all members of the community, the chance to have a day out at a reduced cost, and were ideal for those that can't afford to go away for holidays. These were sadly missed last summer and that is where we come in. Hopefully with your support, and help.

We have a Face Book Site and an email address and can be contacted through them or by the address given at the top of this page. Your name and number can also be left at the Children's Centre to be passed on to us.

Please come and join us. We would love to have more people attend our meetings. You may have a skill that could help us in an administrative way. You may have some brilliant fund raising ideas that could be put into practice.

Help us help the Children's Centre to help the community.

After all we ARE the community.

Remember this is VOLUNTARY.

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