

October 2011

50th ANNIVERSARY

I hope you are all looking forward to the celebrations this month. 50 years may seem a long time to some of you, but in the life of a church it is a comparatively short time. The church I last served in could give the name of Rectors going back to before the Battle of Hastings!! However for most of us it is a real achievement and it is happening when people's memories are still fairly fresh.

I would like to thank all who have been involved in the refurbishment of Christ Church. The whole building looks really beautiful. When the curtains go up it will look really splendid. So come along and enjoy the celebrations on the 8th and 9th. It will also be great to meet with people who have connections with Christ Church for at least some of those 50years.

Celebrate together a great achievement.

Celebrate God's goodness to us.

Celebrate the years of service given by so many.

Above all do come along and join in on this wonderful occasion. 50years!!

I fully appreciate what a wonderful moment, 50years. I know a bit about 50years!! Next year I am celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary!! It is called a Golden Wedding. It makes one think of all the great moments and also the difficult times one has gone through. Great moments of having children, of really happy times, perhaps holidays or other events that stand out in one's memory. There have also been difficult times; changes of jobs, financial problems, family relationship difficulties and so on. If that is true of 50years of marriage, then I am quite certain that it will be true of a church. So as we celebrate we also need to thank God for his great love for us and for His help in dealing with difficulties.

So congratulations to everyone.

Come on and celebrate!!

Best wishes, *Peter.*



Building God's House

Dear Friends,

I have lived in Stamford for 15 years now and as a fresh faced curate at St George's back in the 90's I remember being told about the history of the hut on Willoughby Road which was still very much in evidence next to St George's School. I remember Bob's vision to create the basement at Christ Church and his patience in negotiations to get a good deal on the hut site to release important funds. I have seen the growth of the projects and the wonderful support that Christ Church has from the wider community. It was only recently at my very first PCC meeting that I discovered that St George's and Christ Church both share the same Bible passage as a key inspiration for work over the last 10 years. When I became Rector at St George's in 2003 I went away to pray and the Lord seemed to give me the book of Haggai to read in the Old Testament. The phrase that jumped out at me at the time was 'now is the time to build God's house.' Originally this was an instruction to the Jews who had returned from Exile to rebuild God's House the Temple in Jerusalem. I understood the Lord was calling St George's to 'Build His House' in the present; the New Testament idea is that the Church, the people of God is now God's temple, the place where he dwells by His Spirit. So we coined the phrase 'Building God's House.' How amazing to find then at my first PCC meeting at Christ Church that the Lord had spoken from the same passage so clearly to Christ Church about the need to step out in faith and start the building work on the basement of Christ Church.

I can think of no better phrase or challenge for Christ Church for the next 50 years and for St George's as we partner together that we must both continue to be about the work of 'Building God's House' here together in Stamford for the glory and the honour of His name. The recent decoration and refurbishment of Christ Church has been a terrific effort and well done to everyone who has been involved, taken up a paint brush, moved furniture and given sacrificially. May the next phase of 'Building God's House' see living stones added to His Church as we reach out together in His name.

Blessings,

Martyn Taylor



Collections

The collections/receipts for August and September will be published next month.

November Magazine

Could all entries for the above edition of the magazine be given to me by Sunday, October 23rd. Publication will be the following Sunday, 30th.

Jane Richardson.

200 Club

Draw result for August: 1st: No. 41, 2nd: No. 131,

Draw result for September: 1st: No. 26, 2nd: No. 158,

The next draw will take place on Wednesday, October 19th during the Day Centre meeting.

Flowers and Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival Service is on Sunday, October 2nd at 10.00am. We hope you will all come along and join us for this special service when we give thanks to God for all his 'gifts' – not just the harvest!

In preparation the church will be decorated on Saturday, October 1st, at 9.30am. This will be a joint effort by all the 'flower people'. If you are able to lend a hand do come along at that time.

Dawn Field.

50th Anniversary Weekend

October 8/9th

After all the planning and hard work over the past months our anniversary is almost here! We are aware that mistakes have been made in not keeping you as informed as we should have done about what's going on and why we needed to fundraise as much as we have in the 'public field' but let's put that behind us and celebrate at this time.

The church and hall are looking wonderful, especially the 'cross window' wall now it's been replastered and the 'blocks' have disappeared as well as the 'flaking plaster' caused by water ingress. One or two more jobs need completing and the curtains hung but, take my word for it, everything will be ready on time!

You have been wonderful in giving us your memorabilia to display as well as your memories about the original church building (*which I will not refer to as a 'hut'!*) in Willoughby Road. You have told us some wonderful stories about life and events back then and they make brilliant reading so it is hoped everyone will come along and look around the displays on the Saturday, (11-3.00pm). Refreshments will be available so you can sit and enjoy a drink whilst reading and chatting to friends about what you've seen.

On the Sunday the Anniversary Communion Service at 10.00am will be a joyous occasion to give thanks for Christ Church over the last 50 years as well as looking forward to the next 50! Some 'old' faces (though not in age!) will be taking part in the service and staying for lunch afterwards so come along and catch up with friends you may not have seen for many years. The service and hymns have been arranged/chosen by members of the Fundraising Committee (with a little 'input' from a Reverend or two!) so it is hoped you will find it to your liking.

After the service there will be time for conversation and another look at the displays etc before lunch is served. If you are able to contribute to the food please see the list in the church entrance and sign your name against the dish you will bring.

Let's hope this Anniversary Weekend will be an occasion which will be remembered well into the future as a time when the whole of our wonderful church family came together to rekindle old friendships and

make new ones enabling us to continue to share God's love with our neighbours.

Jane Richardson.



Anniversary Tea Towels for Sale

We have had produced Christ Church 50th Anniversary Tea Towels which we will be selling from now to raise funds for the church refurbishment. One will be displayed in the church entrance so have a look when in church next time.

They are made from premium cotton with an oyster finish, printed in blue, size 76cm by 48cm approx and cost **£3.75** each. They wash and wear very well and will last for the next 50 years! (*No, I made that bit up but I'm sure they **will** last a long time!*) The cost compares very well with that of the 'Stamford Town' tea towel which costs £4.50!

Should you want to purchase one (a few?) of these please see one of the fundraising committee or speak to a church warden. They would make wonderful gifts for birthdays or Christmas and will cost very little to send in the post to friends and family. We have ordered a good number but I wouldn't wait to get hold of them as I'm sure they'll disappear very quickly!

Jane Richardson. On behalf of Fundraising Group.



Future Fundraising

As our 50th Anniversary celebrations are now almost here it's time to start thinking of other events being organised for the rest of the year!

Grand Draw and Autumn Fair, Saturday 19th November

Once again we will have stalls, games, refreshments and much more so make sure you put this date into your diaries and tell all your friends and neighbours! Full details in next month's magazine.

Grand Draw Raffle tickets are now available in church so please take some to sell to your friends, families and work colleagues. If anyone has any raffle prizes that you are able to donate, or if you know of any shop that may provide us with a prize please let Dawn know. The draw will take place during the afternoon of our Autumn Fair.

Looking further on to December we are holding a 'Festive Fun Evening' on Thursday, December 15th when you'll all be invited to come along for a sing song with Betty Lamb and Roger Ing. If you have any Christmas readings, prose, poems, etc get them sorted out and come along and take part! Again more details nearer the time.

We on the fundraising committee thank you for your continued support. If you need any more information please speak to one of us: Dawn Field, Jane Richardson, Jane Harris or Helen Burney.

Fundraising Committee.



Love in a Box, Operation Christmas Child

Yes, it really is 'that time of year again'!!!

We would love to receive any donations of toys, toiletries and stationary items for the boxes as well as empty shoeboxes with **separate lids** and money for carriage which is still £2.50 per box. I'm sure you all know what to include by now but in case you've forgotten there will be lists in the church entrance so you can pick one up from there. Donations can be left in the entrance in the box under the table between the two toilet doors where Granny Gill or I will collect from.

At present the boxes have to be ready by mid November but if we start on them now we will be well organised! Final details will be in next month's magazine.

Thank you for your continued support for this very worthwhile cause.

Gail, Gill and Phil.



Day Centre

We returned on Sept 14th after a slightly extended summer break due to the Church refurbishment.

It was with great sadness we learnt that long standing and popular Day Centre Member, Phyllis Connell had passed away and our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

During October we welcome Richard Adams on the 5th showing slides of local interest and Geoff Aughton the following week playing the piano. Both are new visitors to the Day Centre and we look forward to welcoming them and enjoying the afternoon entertainments.

The Foot Health Practitioner will not be with us this month but returns on November 2nd at 10.15am.

The next Day Centre Communion takes place on October 5th at 11.15am.

We will be closed for one week, October 26th, for half-term.

Amy & Carolyn.

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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, October 6th at the usual time of 10.00am. All are welcome.

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StartaFresh / Befrienders

It's lovely to be back in the old routine of three afternoons a week.

We had a 'prepare and share' lunch on Monday, September 12th with the welcome expertise of Brenda and Robin guiding willing volunteers. The food was most enjoyable and delicious!

We started the 'Y' course again on the 16th, led by David Oxtoby. He makes it very interesting and everyone feels comfortable and able to join

in. I'm sure by the end of the course we'll have learnt something and found some answers. We wish David well in his trip to Africa.

On the 15th six of our members went to a free session at Stamford Leisure Pool. Mike Mills took them in the minibus and a good time was had by all! We hope to repeat the trip and have more members join us.

Love and thanks to everyone.

Ruthie.



Working with Families

Toddlers

We are now back to normal after our long summer break. Our 'babies' seem to have grown some during the holidays and are full of smiles and developing fast!

The children have planted decorated pots with violas for the mums and have done some colouring.

We hope to organise one of the free swimming sessions at Stamford Leisure Pool shortly, it will be fun!

We hope many of our families will join us for our 50th celebrations.

It's so nice to see everyone once again.

Granny Ruth and the gang!



Garden Update

The rain has been very welcome for the most part ensuring that nearly all the plants in the gardens have continued to grow with the notable exception of the Eucalyptus Gunni by the entrance to the car park and the laurels which were planted to try and hide the green Electricity sub station. The brown leaves are a bit of a give away!

I have good news for those wondering what happened to the magnificent Cordyline in the Memorial Garden. I cut it down after the winter appeared to have killed it leaving a stump and planted a small evergreen in front to try and hide the stump. Recently whilst weeding in the Memorial Garden I discovered that two new Cordyline were growing near the base of the stump so hopefully at least one of them will survive!

It has been a good year for all the roses with several of them in flower throughout the growing season. Several wild dog roses appeared in different parts of the garden including the Wild Life Garden. I was repairing Hedgehog Hall a few weeks ago and noticed that in addition to the clematis, ivy and holly growing up the fence there were more blackberries than last year which was a bonus as this means more food & habitat for insects. As I stepped back to admire my handiwork my leg became entangled in something so I looked down to see what it was. What do you think it was?

No it wasn't a bramble as I first thought but a wild rose stem after I had managed to free myself I looked more closely. I was expecting to find rose hips which would be ideal for the birds but instead I found a Robin! Well actually it was what is known as a Robin's pin cushion according to the books.

So here's a little challenge for you - can you find out what a Robin's pin cushion is and what it looks like?

The Wild Life Garden (WLG) continues to attract plenty of wild life including bees, hoverflies, lady birds, butterflies and moths. One early evening in late May I discovered a very colourful moth resting in the WLG which was green and bright pink. It may have been an elephant hawk moth *Deilephila Elepenor* or the small elephant hawk moth *Deilephila Porcellus*. I have seen the adult elephant hawk moth in a garden in Stamford before but on this occasion I thought it was a hover fly as it was hovering by a hollyhock. Phil Rudkin tells me that people have rung him up to say that they had seen a humming bird in their garden and it turned out to be this moth.

Apparently there are only 3 animals that hover like this as they take nectar from flowers: elephant hawk moths, hoverflies and humming birds; the chances of seeing a humming bird are quite remote but if this global warming continues you never know! Elephant hawk moths are mainly nocturnal and crepuscular.

Here's another little challenge for you - what does crepuscular mean?

Speaking of challenges by the time you read this I will probably be tackling the challenge of clearing up all those leaves, never mind just think of all the animals that will benefit from the increased Leaf Pile in the WLG !

Chris.



Bishop of Grantham's Letter

Dear friends

Unless we've been living a particularly hermitic life of late, we should now be well aware that we are welcoming a new Bishop of Lincoln and are all looking forward to introducing Christopher Lowson to our wonderful County of Lincolnshire. It is a time, at his consecration to the episcopate and subsequently his enthronement here in Lincoln Cathedral, when the Church can be relaxed about being a little triumphalist and we can enjoy the unparalleled acts of worship, the holy ceremonies and the dignified pomp. For the arrival of a new Bishop, nay the inauguration of the fresh ministry of any minister of whatever position, is a time for rejoicing as the old gives way to the new and we begin to be invigorated by what comes next in the life of the Church. It is wonderful that, in a contemporary society supposedly so secular and unconcerned about the things of God, men and women still lay their lives on the altar of service to God and to others through ordination: not just bishops, but priests and deacons and a host of others. For this is the real source of our rejoicing at the inception of a new ministry: that God's love will be revealed in this newly dedicated life. So let's enjoy this time and pause to remind ourselves what it is all about when the Parish Share has been paid, the roof put back on the church building and the church rotas written: 'God is love, and those who live in love live in God, and God lives in them'.

And what about you and I? There will be those who welcome a new Bishop because they expect an omnipotent, omnipresent prelate who will right all the supposed wrongs of the Church and, within weeks of his arrival, our churches will be full once more and everything will be as we always wished it to be. In our heart of hearts, we all know that this is an unrealistic expectation of any human being and possibly cruel to the

recipient of such exaggerated projections. Perhaps more properly, there will be those who warmly welcome a fellow worker for Christ into the life of a Diocese which has had an ongoing life for many centuries and which seeks to grow into the future. Yes, bringing the best out of its Episcopal leader, but also pledging our own efforts, love and ministry so that the best may be brought out of all us for Christ and his Church.

And what is this 'best' that I speak of. In all his utterances, commands and teachings, Jesus always urged his first disciples to look outwards in love on the world: unconcerned about their needs, it was the healing and service of other lives that brought life and vitality to his Church. And so it is for us today who are now fellow servants with the first disciples. When the narrow needs and issues of the Church are all that concern us, we wither and perish: when we look outward in love and service we thrive.

And perhaps this is the real reason that we rejoice and party at the start of a new Bishop's ministry because, above all, it symbolises the constant outpouring of God's love in His world and the opportunity for the Church, Bishop and people alike, to both receive and show that divine love in their life as his Church together.

Yours in His love,

+Tim.



Cat's Tales

Hi folks!

Nice to have family and friends back! I don't think I'll be joining in any swimming sessions – sunbathing – yes, but water – no!!

The wind has been ruffling my fur recently and causing a draught. But I'm still very happy in my little Des Res!

Luv to you all.

M.D.



Calendar

October

Saturday	1	9.30	Decoration of church ready for Harvest Festival
Sunday	2	10.00	Harvest Festival Holy Communion
		6.30	Harvest Praise
Monday	3	1-3	Befrienders
		5.30	Teenzone Dance
Wednesday	5	9-3	Day Centre
		11.15	Holy Communion
Thursday	6	9.30	Toddlers
		1-3	Twinklets
		7.30	Horticultural Society
Friday	7	1-3	Befrienders
		4.30-5.30	Teenzone Glee Club
Saturday	8	11-3	50th Anniversary Celebrations
Sunday	9	10.00	50th Anniversary Service with Holy Communion
		12.00	Anniversary Lunch
		6.30	<i>Evensong</i>
Monday	10	1-3	Befrienders
		5.30	Teenzone Dance
Tuesday	11	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	12	9-3	Day Centre
Thursday	13	9.30	Toddlers
		1-3	Twinklets
Friday	14	1-3	Befrienders
		4.30-5.30	Teenzone Glee Club
Sunday	16	10.00	Kings Praise
		6.30	Evensong & Holy Communion
Monday	17	1-3	Befrienders
		5.30	Teenzone Dance
Tuesday	18	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Wednesday	19	9-3	Day Centre

Thursday	20	9.30 1-3	Toddlers Twinklets
Friday	21	1-3 4.30-5.30	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club
Sunday	23	10.00 6.30	Holy Communion Sunday school Evensong

Half Term

Art Workshops will take place Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the half term break. See weekly newssheets for information or speak to Peter Hart.

Monday	24	1-3 5.30	Befrienders Teenzone Dance
Tuesday	25	2.30	Fun and Fitness
Thursday	27	1-3	Twinklets
Friday	28	1-3 4.30	Befrienders Teenzone Glee Club
Sunday	30	10.00 6.30	Holy Communion Evensong
Monday	31	1-3 5.30 5-7	Befrienders Teenzone Dance Light Party

Girl Guiding UK have units meeting each week here at Christ Church. For more information contact 01780 784091.

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	7.3-10	Teenzone

- See weekly notices for details of all events



Michaelmas Daisies

Alan Titchmarsh tells of the time that he worked for the parks department in Ilkley and how one day he was promoted from potting up geraniums to planting trees. "Be sure to follow t'advice I gave thee" said his boss as he left Alan. So Alan followed the advice as best he could, first he dug a very large hole then added plenty of 'muck' (manure) before teasing out the roots, planting the tree to the right depth then backfilled it & heeled it in before finally watering the tree in.

When Alan's boss returned he said "Now lad tell me what tha's done today". So Alan happily told him how he had planted the tree but was surprised when his boss said "Aye, well done lad but you forgot summat". He racked his brains but couldn't for the life of him work out what it was that he'd forgotten to do and admitted it to his boss. "Why lad tha's forgotten to speak to the tree" said his boss.

Now Alan had just read about some new fangled notion of folk talking to their plants to help them grow but he didn't really think folks up north would behave like them soft southerners so he told his boss. His boss replied "Tha's right lad all you need say is grow tha' blighter grow!"

If only it were that simple all your plants would grow to a prodigious size filling the garden with colour, scent and greenery but then you would have to spend even more time pruning them and training them so perhaps is just as well that don't all grow like Jack's Beanstalk or Leylandii!! Though of course there is nothing wrong with a Leylandii fence as long as it is regularly kept in check and not allowed to get out of hand. So too at times our ideas and plans need to be kept in check, yet we need to be receptive to new ideas and change for the mind is like a parachute: it is only useful if it is open!

Continuing with the gardening theme you may have noticed the bright purple flowers at the base of the electric light at the bottom of the ramp leading up to the church. They have been in flower from August to Mid October and are a type of Michaelmas daisy, I can't remember whether I planted them or whether a bird dropped a seed which germinated but either way they are a splendid sight. They provide a real splash of colour at a time when most of the other flowers are coming to an end. Though in

the church gardens there are still plenty of evergreens to maintain interest through the autumn and winter.

You could see the Michaelmas daisy in many different lights. For some it celebrates the outgoing growing season, for others it is the harbinger of doom and gloom; others might view it as the demise of this year's growing season. Whatever your point of view it is inevitable that Summer fades into Autumn which in turn gives way to Winter to be followed by rebirth in Spring. We may not look forward to Winter because it is cold and dark but Winter is essential to allow plants to recover from the growing season during which they have expended a great deal of energy.

Our society may have changed so that it is not so directly governed by the seasons but there are still reminders of the old agrarian system based on sowing, reaping and harvesting with the attendant feast days, including the four traditional Quarter Days.

Michaelmas daisies are so called because they are in flower on Michaelmas or the Feast of St Michael & All Angels which is one of the four traditional quarter days in a year.

They marked the beginning of each quarter of the year and from medieval times the traditional Quarter Days were:

- 1.) Lady Day on March 25th (celebrated the Feast of the Annunciation when the archangel Gabriel told Mary that she was to be the mother of Jesus),
- 2.) Midsummer Day on June 24th (celebrated the Feast of St John the Baptist)
- 3.) Michaelmas Day (which celebrated the Feast of St Michael and All Angels)
- 4.) Christmas (December 25th).

These quarter days were spaced 3 months apart on religious festivals close to the solstices or equinoxes. They were the dates on which servants were hired, rents were due and leases began. The harvest had to be completed by Michaelmas.

When is Michaelmas Day?

In medieval times Michaelmas Day was celebrated on October 10th but since 1751 Michaelmas Day has been celebrated on September 29th. The reason for this change is that in 1751 Britain changed from the old Julian calendar to the new Gregorian calendar used by the rest of Europe. Although the difference between them was only slight initially (about 11 minutes) after centuries the difference between them had become too

great and the situation became unworkable and change was necessary. The two calendars were 11 days apart so an Act of Parliament was passed in 1751 saying that Wednesday 2nd October would be followed by Thursday 14th October, not the 3rd as expected. So 11 days effectively disappeared that year from the 3rd to the 13th of October, bad luck that year if your birthday fell in between those dates!

Michaelmas was an important Christian celebration because it commemorates the day on which the chief angel St Michael fought the Devil / Lucifer and won banishing the Devil from heaven. Allegedly when the Devil fell from heaven he landed on a blackberry bush and the Devil cursed the blackberry. Traditionally this is why you should never pick blackberries after this date!

The scientist in me should point out that after Michaelmas the blackberries are either quite mouldy or are too high in tannins to be edible! However you can see the connection between the Michaelmas daisy and St Michael who is seen as the protector from dark forces and evil.

While it is inevitable that the seasons will change, autumn will be followed by winter this does not necessarily mean it must be a period of dark and gloom for it will be followed by the promise of new birth and growth in the spring. Even now all those bulbs, corms and tubers are busy underground preparing themselves for the changes ahead as are the perennials and I think we can all take heart from this.

Chris.

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*And Finally.....!*

Just to say that I hope lots of you will attend the Saturday Open Day on our Anniversary Weekend. If you come along I feel sure you will feel very pleased to be associated with all the community work which has taken place at Christ Church since its humble beginnings in Willoughby Road. I feel that to know the history of Christ Church is the key to understanding its future!

Sadly, I won't be in Stamford for the Anniversary weekend. I shall be attending my sons wedding in Chester.....but I'll be thinking of you all!

*Editor.*