

**THE WOLDS AND TRENT CIRCUIT
OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

LINK



**December 2013
January 2014**

Pastoral Letter

Endings and beginnings come to mind as we find ourselves in the last month of 2013 and fast approaching 2014. As I was thinking about this it reminded me of the many books and films which we are often given as presents at this time of year. Sometimes the beginnings are very slow and it takes ages to get into the storyline, but on other occasions the action and characters just engage us and we are 'hooked', eagerly waiting and anticipating the next bit, wanting to find out what will happen next. The endings of books and films also can leave you with real excitement, maybe with a sense of the unexpected, a sense of real curiosity of what might happen if the storyline were to have continued on, or even disappointment when things haven't turned out the way you wanted.

In life we experience many beginnings and endings in a range of situations, the workplace, within the activities of our family etc. in our churches and communities as certain activities come to a close and new opportunities unexpectedly open up in different places. Sometimes when those endings and beginnings aren't what we expected, they challenge our thinking or cause great excitement and anticipation. In this season of Advent, Christmas and on into the New Year, it may be a time when we reflect on the past, perhaps on events and traditions we've been involved in, along with memories of those who are no longer with us. However it is also an opportunity to remember the hope which we have in God. The hope, anticipation and expectation of what God can and will do in our lives, the life of our churches and communities if we seek his guidance.

In the first few words of John's gospel we are reminded that ...

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Whatever our endings or beginnings we can be confident that God will journey with us and guide us into new places.

So as we move toward the end of 2013, let's give thanks for what has passed, enjoy the present and look forward not just to 'another' New Year but eagerly anticipate a new beginning with God holding and guiding us, with expectation that the Holy Spirit will lead us into new places to share the Good News of Jesus.

Anne Coates

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Beckingham

Church Contact: Mr T Thomas 01427 848728

Brookenby

Church Contact: Mrs M Nicholls 01472 398364

The Circuit Quiz last evening was a lot of fun and although Peter and I were in the winning team, we can't take the credit as we had two very knowledgeable U3A friends on hand; those questions were very hard Sue it really did stretch our "grey matter" – a big "thank you" to you and for all who made it a very successful evening. The Remembrance Service was held on the Airfield at the 460 Royal Australian Air Force Memorial when Mr Malcolm Coates led a very special meaningful service, attended by at least 40 or more folk, young and old, and a number of wreaths were laid by all. A very moving poem, written by a Brookenby lady, Mrs Margaret Quaggan was shared by her after the act of Remembrance. Sharing in this Service was a very special gentleman, now 88 years of age, a Mr Doug James, known as Jimmy, who flew 29 operations as a rear gunner with 460 Squadron RAAF between 1943 and 1945. He was only 19 years of age then and the best memory for him was seeing Lincoln Cathedral as the crew returned from a mission, he said "we knew we were really home then" – he never thought at that young age that Lincoln was where he would move to in later life.

Although it was a nice sunny morning, it was good to return from the Airfield to a warm welcome back at St Michael & All Angels; and a very big "thank you" to our Jean (Batchelor) for serving lovely hot soup – it was more than welcome and enjoyed by so many.

We have been delighted to hear from Marian and to share the good news that at long last Robert is now back home and to know that at long last his transplant operation has been successful. It is still early days, but we want them to know that they are so much in our thoughts and prayers. God bless you richly.

It has been good to see Joyce (Steel) back amongst us in recent times, she is now getting about a bit better, but we are not entering her in the Marathon race just yet! We all look forward to a happy and healthy 2014 and thank our Heavenly Father for all His Love and Mercies.

Everyone here sends love and blessings to you,
In His Name,

Doreen Wallis

Caistor

Church Contact: Mr M James 01472 851965

In the beginning God said, 'Let there be light'

And there was light, and the light still shines.

Starmaker God

Lightener of the World,

Bless us and warm us

Into light and loving

Bring us to the light of Jesus

All the length and breadth

Of our nights and days

Part of our garden service at the close of the 2013 Bright Light Bash, described in the press as a 'truly Happy Halloween', an alternative to the darkness of 31st October. This event started in 2010 as a response to God's call for action to support prayers on this particular night; it is now firmly part of Caistor calendar. It's the night our whole church building lights up as we invite our community to celebrate Jesus as Light of the World. Our schoolroom hosted activities including decorating bags for sweet collection, Wii games, sweets, decorating buns and making cocktails, sweets, apple bobbing, chocolate fountain, sweets, candle making, guessing games, sweets, demon skittles and electronic games andsweets. The kitchen served hot dogs, baked potatoes & fillings and cakes, the yard was a buzz of action as twilight trikes raced around an imaginary circuit, the Wesley Room as usual underwent a transformation into an intimate coffee lounge with its usual happy banter, and the church itself was a sanctuary for prayer and meditation. Curious people are given a warm invitation into the church just to look and see. We aim to make a definite statement by lighting our garden with an illuminated cross, large candle and pumpkin lanterns with Christian symbols, this year enhanced by 78 coloured lights. Flyers are issued to local schools and we advertise within the town. No-one can be in any doubt of our message.

Each year we receive a blessing from the Bright Light Bash and have been overwhelmed by its success. Our diverse team have different responsibilities, we bounce off one another, dispense with meetings, just get on with it and it works. Everything we tackle is surrounded by prayer with a special night prior to the evening and dedicated prayer time before we throw open our doors. With God at the helm why should we doubt? Despite welcoming many visitors, the happy banter and good questions and comments I actually felt that the blessing we received this year was to our church family itself. Everyone appeared to play their part be it donating gifts or money, offering assistance, promoting a high profile, prayers and attendance. Although 18 helpers joined in prayer at the start of the event they represented the whole of our Church. The garden service was also well attended and special as Shine Jesus Shine rang out and candles were lit. Every year I encourage other churches to try something similar to the Bright Light Bash, please think about it because wonderful things happen when God's people unite in action.

Our All Age Worship team have given us another example of how working together gives more back than is given. We've had puppets, Cake decorating (we like food at Caistor), collages, quizzes, measuring tree, a man decorated in balloons and music. If this different type of worship is not to everyone's taste it doesn't show. The love, fellowship and encouragement always shine through. Perhaps we also need to strive to ensure that visiting preachers receive as much of a blessing from us as we receive from them, we are always open to suggestions on how to achieve this. Their dedication and diversity are the backbone of the Methodist Church and we do appreciate every message they give.

Several years ago it was felt that our church should be opened once a month as a place of fellowship in the form of a coffee morning. This was to be none profit making but once again as the church family have worked together this has expanded to 2 Saturdays per month and substantial donations are given to church funds and charities. Our various and varied House groups are an essential part of our Church life and are our link between Sunday services and development of our Christian life. Relationships are formed and support offered to build us up. I understand that further details of these will be included in Link in the future.

On a crisp November morning Caistor Churches and Community old and young united together in Remembrance. A parade of uniformed organisations and Town Council joined in a service at the Parish Church and at the War Memorial. Once again people uniting made this a very meaningful service, the poignant address being delivered by Rev. Anne Coates. It was good to see the recently formed Rainbows, girls of 5-7 who meet at our Church, join the parade and display their newly commissioned flag. Following Ray Wylie's rendering of the Last Post the two minutes silence was filled with personal thoughts as we remembered those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice almost 100 years ago right through to present day

Last week-end John and I took a trip down memory lane as we visited Milton Keynes, a city we left 20 years ago. The Church of Christ the Cornerstone was the first ecumenical city centre church in the United Kingdom and the building opened just before we left. Today it thrives as we experienced ourselves during Sunday morning worship. The five multicultural denominations declare

In order to proclaim the gospel by common witness and service in the community and the world, and in obedience to God's call, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we therefore joyfully covenant with each other:

- to work together in love;*
- to pray and care for one another and for our neighbours;*
- to serve together the community based in the city centre;*
- and to live together in fellowship,*

to the greater glory of God.

We may not be a city centre church but I pray that we continue to strive for these goals here in Caistor to become a church of and for the community.

Faldingworth

Church Contact: Mrs C Waite 01673 885249

We had our Chapel Council Meeting in the schoolroom in October. It was good to have everyone together for a chat and time to catch up on the items on the agenda. On the following Sunday as we were carrying vases of flowers into Chapel we spotted a group of volunteers helping to spruce up the floor at the village hall. We were looking forward to meeting the preacher for our Chapel service (Elizabeth Taylor), as we had only seen her name in print on the plan. Our surprise and joy when she came into the chapel with a smiley face and was able to lead the singing, play the organ, preach the sermon and deliver the prayers. It was lovely. She was chauffeured by her husband who knew how to find the Chapel because at one time he had made frequent visits to the carpenters, Mr Dickinson, who lived in Spridlington Road. By a strange coincidence he met John Dickenson on the way home so was able to renew the acquaintance.

Rev. Anne Coates joined us the following Sunday to celebrate communion and she accompanied the hymns on the organ. Malcolm popped in on his way back from breakfast at Glenthams and it was good to see him.

We joined the Parish Church congregation at 4 o'clock on November 3rd for a memorial service. Dr Don Owen assisted Cynthia Bunch at this joint gathering. We welcomed Mr Dennis Lockwood for the Remembrance Sunday service. He had been able to find a willing organist, who came with him. The All Saints congregation joined us and members of the Faldingworth Parish Council joined us too. We were able to introduce our visitors to the hymn which we traditionally sing at the service in our village "O Valiant Hearts". We did not sing all the verses but enough for them to think it was ok because they told us so! It was lovely to have them with us and we thank them for the memorable service and hope to see them again.

Our deepest sympathy to John Green and his daughter-in-law Wendy, on the death of his son Brian.

Laurie Oxborrow

Gainsborough

Church Contact: Mr M Childs 01427 610057

We are continuing our harvest donations to the Gainsborough Food Bank, with a very pretty supermarket trolley in our foyer for contributions. By the time this comes to you our Anniversary will have been celebrated, with Andrew leading worship, followed by a lunch. The Advent Course will also have started, continuing on 10th and 17th December.

Into December, and things do get rather busy. Rehearsals are going along well for the performance of 'The Gift', as part of the Christmas Tree Festival which is on the 14th and 15th December: there is a separate notice about this event.

For our Christmas celebrations the following services will take place:

December 8th: Advent Praise, 7.00pm

December 15th: Christmas Tree Festival, services at 10.30am and 4.00pm 'among the Christmas Trees'

December 22nd: Carol service at 10.30am, led by Dennis Lockwood

Christmas Eve: breaking with tradition, the Communion service will be at 6.00pm

Christmas Day: family celebration at 10.00am

Gainsborough Christmas Tree Festival 2013

The weekend of December 13th - 15th is the date for this year's Tree Festival at Gainsborough Methodist Church.

There are many events taking place during the weekend so do come along and join in, or just come and view the Christmas Trees decorated by various organisations and groups in Gainsborough.

On Friday 13th children from local primary schools will be visiting the festival and will participate in carol singing.

On Saturday 14th the church is open for viewing 10.00-13.00 (coffee and mince pies will be served).

At 19.00 there will be a presentation of the Graham Kendrick musical 'The Gift - Make Way for Christmas'.

On Sunday 15th morning worship is at 10.30.

At 15.00 the church will be open for viewing and the North Lincs Fiddle Club will be performing.

At 16.00 Christmas Carol and Gift service - an opportunity to meet some friendly puppets, to bring a gift of a toy for Homestart and to sing carols among the Christmas Trees.

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults for Pastoral Visitors.

Lincolnshire Methodist District Safeguarding Officer, Howard Smedley is coming to Gainsborough Methodist Church on January 30th at 2.00pm to do some awareness training and all are welcome to participate. Please let me know if you would like to join us. Liz

Glentham

Church Contact: Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

November is, so far, proving to be another busy month at Glentham!

Our first service of the month was 'Family Church' led by Ian Hardcastle. The theme was the story of Zacchaeus and I led the children's activities along with Alison. We created a collage of Zacchaeus and Jesus and talked about how it can sometimes be difficult to welcome people in the way that Jesus did. The children then drew around their hands, wrote ideas for how they could welcome someone and used these to create a tree. It was a lovely service and an enjoyable time was had by all.

Our United Remembrance Service was led by Rev Anne and it was lovely to see the chapel so full on this very special occasion. Many people also stayed for coffee and fellowship afterwards.

It will be Messy Church this Sunday which is always a busy and exciting time! I feel so privileged to belong to a church that spreads God's Word to children (and their families) in this way.

I'm really enjoying learning a little more about all the churches in our Circuit through the Link. Many thanks to Kathy and all those involved in its creation and distribution – you do a sterling job!

God bless.

Rachael Warren

Men's Breakfast

'The Crown Inn', Glentham

12th December & 11th January at 9am

(every 2nd Saturday of the month!!)

Full English Breakfast £5.50 and free chat!!!

Please Phone Peter 01673 878806 & book your place!



Glentham Christmas Treat

Sunday 29th December 2013

7pm to 9pm – A Movie in the Chapel

Be prepared to go on a dizzying journey around the world, a world of hope and courage - From the streets of California to the mud huts of Africa - From the underground church in China to the Gypsies of eastern Europe - God is at work – miracles happen today come and see for yourself!!!

Seasonal Refreshments



Gringley

Church Contact: Mrs P Gray 01427 629250

ADVENT SERVICE
at NETTLETON
Sunday 1st December
at 3 00pm



Advent candles tell their story

Everyone welcome
Service followed by
tea and mincepies

The Methodist Book Centre in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, has been trading for nearly 70 years and is now the only large Methodist Bookshop in the Connexion. The Centre, which is part of the Chester and Stoke District, has recently been presented with the Large Christian Retailer of the Year 2013 award. It has just set up an online trading facility especially to help those people who live too far away to visit the shop (which has been described as an oasis in the centre of a busy shopping and commercial environment). The name of the site is “Christian Resources for Life” to emphasise the ecumenical nature of its products and that it supplies not just books but a wide range of resources – books, study materials, music, DVDs, gifts, cards etc. The website is www.crfl.co.uk and you are invited to register with the site to receive occasional special offers and newsletters. You are also most welcome to call Julie Ann Ellis (the Centre Manager) on 01782 212146 if you need help in choosing the right resources for you.

Lea

Church Contact: Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

Thursday 19th December at 2 15pm

An afternoon of Carols and Readings chosen by members

Thursday 16th January at 12 noon for 12 30pm

Members' Annual Lunch – price £6

WALK TO EMMAUS

On 31st October Rev Anne, Sylvia Tointon and I headed north to experience our 'Walk to Emmaus' at Minsteracres, County Durham. Our entrance was along a drive of majestic Redwood trees, which led to a huge building where our weekend took place. It was truly a spiritual journey, beginning with getting to know folk from places as far away as Peterhead as well as others nearer the venue.

We thirty ladies were called 'Pilgrims' and were divided into groups of five or six; my group was called 'Kindness'. We sat round a table for the lectures, and after each of them we had a time for thought and a group discussion, after which we demonstrated our interpretation of the talk in drama or artwork, progressing along the Christian road of faith – altogether very challenging and stimulating.

I was moved by the prayer that undergirded the whole weekend; prayer was faithfully given for each person, and even people in the USA were thinking of and praying for us. It wasn't all serious and studious; mealtimes were opportunities to get to know fellow 'Pilgrims'. The food was plentiful and always adequate, and it was served with a smile by volunteers.

We came home laden with all kinds of love gifts, from people I have never met. I am so thankful to all who made my weekend unforgettable, and to God who walked with me and continues to do so day by day.

June Hare, Middle Rasen

Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr G Taylor 01673 843939
glta332@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday Services; 10.45 a.m.; monthly evening service at 6.00p.m.
Weekday communion; First Friday in the month 10.00a.m.
Weekday activities & other events; See monthly Bulletin

As our year of celebrating 150 years of worship in our chapel draws to a close, I suppose it is inevitable that our brothers and sisters here at Market Rasen spend quite a lot of time looking back. Thanks to the super-efficiency of Midge Thomas, our circuit administrator, we know all the addresses, telephone numbers and, dare I say it, e-mail addresses, of our membership and our brilliant treasurer, Ian Shedden can tell us the average income per member, the average collection we gather and much more. However, there is one detail we do not have, or if we do, we keep to ourselves: the average age of our members! We can guess, though, and I suspect that it is pretty much the same throughout our circuit.

Does the fact that we are a “mature” society, mean that we are likely to be looking back, rather than looking forward? Not really, for the question on many of our lips this year, of all years, has been: what will our church, or what will “Church” be like 150 years from now? Thinking about history, forces us to think about the future. And thinking about the future, forces us to think about the here and now. I invite you all to do so with us. To help, and to cheer you up perhaps, consider these points:

- The current Pope, Pope Francis, has 3.1 million “followers” of his twitter account
- The total weekly attendance at the 42 Anglican cathedrals in the UK grew, this year, to 35,800 – a 35% increase since 2002!
- 32% of the world’s population is Christian
- 78.5 million Bibles are distributed worldwide, each year
- There are 306,000 foreign missionaries in the non-evangelised world and 4.19 million Christian workers
- The USA is still generally thought of as a church-going country. There are more Christians in China than in the USA!
- And finally..... At the last count in 2007 the British Methodist Church had 267,257 members. There are over 800,000 people in Britain who have an active connection with the Methodist Church. There are over 80 million such people across the world.

So, though we may be depressed at times, about the future for our Methodist circuit, with our ageing membership and declining numbers, we must not lose hope. As the wonderful hymn, "This is My Father's World" tells us: "*And though the wrong seems oft so strong, GOD IS THE RULER YET*"and

"This is my father's world

Why should my heart be sad?

THE LORD IS KING, let the heavens ring

God reigns, let the earth be glad"

This is a changing world but change is not necessarily bad – we should not, as the Victorians perhaps did, sing "Change *and decay* in all around I see" yet we do hold fast to the main theme of that great hymn: Oh Thou, who changest not, abide with me". So we rejoice in the present and we face the future with conviction and confidence as we continue to abide in Jesus Christ (John 15:5).

"Through all the changing scenes of life,

in trouble and in joy,

the praises of my God shall still

my heart and tongue employ."

What is known as "The Book Club", a house group loosely based on Market Rasen chapel continues to meet regularly. It is principally a bible study group which meets sometimes weekly and sometimes fortnightly in the home of one or two of us, on weekday evenings. At present, we are working, chapter by chapter, through John's gospel. As well as bible study, we spend time in prayer and Christian fellowship. We'd be delighted to have so many in our group that we have to consider increasing the number of groups. If you feel you would like to join us, please call Colin or June Hare on 01673 842779 or Glenda or Geoff Taylor on 01673 843939. Our group is one of a number of house groups that meet throughout the circuit and following a very successful meeting of representatives of all these groups, attended by our ministers and co-ordinated by Rev Anne, it was agreed to run a "taste and see" evening at 7.00 pm on Thursday 13 February at Glenthams chapel. All are invited to come along to take part in a couple of different group sessions. You might one to join one of the groups or you might want to set up one of your own groups!

Geoff Taylor

Marton

Church Contact: Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

The refurbishment of Marton Chapel is going well and what a difference? We are very fortunate to have found a wonderful builder- everything you can think of he can do and his whole family have been involved. We have sadly had to change our minds about keeping the 200 year old floor boards polished but that isn't very practical so are busy raising the money for carpets instead.

We all enjoyed a wonderful service joining with our friends at Lea Chapel for their Anniversary together with Upton Chapel to hear The Rev David Leese of Epworth conduct the service. Mrs Par Gray was the soloist. Following this, the ladies of Lea provided their usual excellent spread for our tea. Catering is very hard work and we thank them for this and for their welcome and fellowship.

Our United Remembrance Day service at St. Margaret's Church was indeed a service to remember and was conducted by Rev Canon Philip Wain after which we enjoyed coffee and a chat before gathering around the cenotaph. The Chairman of Marton Parish Council, Mr Stephen Spence laid the poppy wreath and read out the names of the Marton men who had made the ultimate sacrifice. He then recited "the verse" followed by two minutes silence. Miss Megan Bean then played the Last Post on her trumpet - a very moving occasion for us all.

Gareth and Elaine will host a Christmas Beetle Drive on Monday 9th December at 7.00 p.m. All are invited and will be held in conjunction with the Youth Club.

Our Carol Service on Sunday 22nd December at 6.00 pm will once again be conducted by the very talented "Porter family"

There will be no coffee morning in December. Next one is Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 10.00a.m.

All at Marton wish friends old and new in the W & T Circuit a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Doris Kitchinson

Middle Rasen

Church Contact: Mrs A Surfleet 01673 843256

Autumn – “the season of nuts and fruitfulness” (one of my favourite poems). We have certainly been blessed with much fruit, veg, and flowers this year – abundant I might say! After a beautiful summer the rain came with a sudden chill in the air, but it is all part of God’s plan.

Our Guild started this month and will continue over the winter months. We have several new members this year which is encouraging. One of our highlights each year is to visit the “Haven” at Grimsby where they entertain us – usually with a musical evening. This year it was the Humber Belles – a choir of ladies who harmonised beautifully and the evening was much enjoyed. Later on we invite them to Middle Rasen and entertain them – again often with a musical evening. They lay on for us a wonderful supper and we return the compliment.

The Women’s Own have some very interesting speakers on a variety of subjects and the meetings are well attended and visitors are welcome. They meet on a Wednesday afternoon.

“Step Forward” have had their usual set of meetings and their Group Social outing is on Nov 5th, they meet on a Tuesday afternoon.

Coffee, Cake and Chat alternate on a Thursday with Luncheon Club, so they meet on the first, third and fifth Thursday of the month. Both are well attended. We do enjoy our food at Middle Rasen!!

Our thoughts next month (this month when you read this) will be turning into Christmas – which presents to buy, what food to eat, and our minds, if we are not careful, will be full of material things pushing to the back of our minds the real meaning of Christmas. We will be so busy doing Christmasy things, with the children so excited, it is often difficult to put things into perspective. What is the most important?

Our Minister, the Rev. Anne, has had a lovely thought and on the morning of Friday December 13th and Saturday December 14th an exhibition of Crib/Nativity sets will fill our Chapel ranging from tiny to large. All are welcome to come and see – they should make a lovely display. These should help turn our minds from the material side of Christmas to the true meaning of the season.

One of the things Middle Rasen do because they love singing and giving happiness to people on December 16th a small group are going to the old peoples home at Holten-cum-Beckering to sing carols and bring the Faith. I am sure the residents love it and really look forward to it.

Middle Rasen Chapel would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful Christmas.

Can I say a last word – a Japanese proverb – one kind word (or deed) can warm (speed along) thress (dreary) winter months. (My words in brackets!!)

Liz Margrave

Misterton

Church Contact: Mr S Bilton 01427 810866

Thurs. 10-11am coffee mornings, every week.

(During winter months, the coffee morning may be cancelled if weather is bad)

Womens Fellowship

Weds. 1st and 3rd week,
2pm

The next few speakers are:

Wed 4th Dec. Life as a district councillor, Hazel.

Wed 18th Dec. Christmas afternoon

Christmas events

Sunday 15th December:

Village Carols at 6pm in Methodist Church
preceded by singing around the village from 3pm, with
refreshments.

Christmas Eve

2 pm mince pies

2.30 pm short carol service, including placing baby in crib.

Nettleton

Church Contact: Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

We would like to wish everyone in the Circuit A Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

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|---------------------------|---|
| December 1 st | Circuit Advent Service - 3:00 pm |
| December 7 th | Joint Churches Christmas Bazaar in Nettleton Village Hall
2:00pm – 4:00pm. Meet Father Christmas.
Grand Raffle – Cakes and Produce Stall – Gifts for all Vintage
Costume Jewellery – Face Painting – Tombola Bottle Stall and
much, much more.
Refreshments available all afternoon. |
| December 22 nd | Carol service 2:30pm |
| January 4 th | Monthly Coffee Morning 10:30am -12:00 noon |
| February 1 st | Monthly Coffee Morning 10:30am -12:00 noon |

With mixed feelings we said goodbye to Mrs. Joyce Marriot as she moved to Middle Rasen to be nearer to her family. It was our loss but Middle Rasen's Chapel's gain. May God bless you as you settle into your new home.

Jean Field

North Kelsey

Church Contact: Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

The beginning of Advent will be marked by a special service at Nettleton. It is good opportunity to pause and think before the Christmas rush sets in in earnest! Apart from our normal worship, we also have a Community Carol Service on the evening of Sunday 15th December. This is arranged jointly with the Anglican Church and other organisations in the village are usually invited to take part.

Last Christmas we heard about Posada for the first time when Andrew introduced it in Caistor and this year we will have the opportunity to participate as Sarah is involving the children at school and will need additional homes where Mary and Joseph can find hospitality. In case you have not come across Posada before, I should explain that it is based on a Mexican custom in which children dress as Mary and Joseph and knock on doors asking to be welcomed in. The version we will follow involves Mary and Joseph dolls being passed from family to family, creating an opportunity for the story to be shared – and I will know more by next month!

I hope that all our activities through Advent will help to prepare us to welcome Jesus with fresh joy. Happy Christmas everybody!

God bless,
Sylvia

Market Rasen and District Choral Society

Christmas Concert

on

SUNDAY 15th December

at 2 00pm

Market Rasen Methodist Church.

Come and listen to a wide assortment of wonderful Christmas music - some of which is quite new to us all! 'The Boy of Bethlehem' was written by our guest accompanist Caroline-Anne and will be as great to listen to as it is to sing!

Upton

Church Contact: Mrs D Jubbs 01427 838791

Hello everyone,

We hope this news from Upton finds you all well!

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we were looking forward to our first Church Council Meeting with Liz. We had a wonderful time together and lots of changes are taking place. One of our main changes concerns our Secretary who, after 19 years of duties has asked to retire. We say a huge thank you to Doris Jubbs for all the work she has done in that time. Doris works in a very quiet unassuming way, calmly and efficiently. Not a bit like me!!! Anyway you will be pleased to know that I am not taking over the job, Julie Barrow has volunteered to do so. Julie also works in a quiet, unassuming way. She is very capable with I.T. and is already getting us organised "electronically" (if that is the right phrase!). Her husband, Stuart, is our newly appointed property steward, and my husband Patrick has taken over the treasurer's roll as Alan has asked to step down from that post. We also thank Alan, and Patrick for all the work they put in as Treasurer and Property Steward. Thank you all very much.

Other exciting things have happened as a result of our Council meeting. Just over 2 weeks ago we had 2 ladies become members of our Chapel, and Methodism. There should have been 3 people, but unfortunately one was unwell. We had a super morning, it was quite moving and most joyous.

We are also starting an Advent Group, to be led by Liz. This will take place at the Chapel on Tuesday 3rd. December at 7-00pm. This is for anyone who would like to come and join us.

Finally I am planning to have "Faith Café" afternoon on Tuesday 28th January at 2-00pm. This will be an opportunity to come and have a coffee and sing some new hymns from "Singing the Faith". This is open to all who enjoy singing!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful, healthy, and happy Christmas time. We received our first card on the 9th November!!! Is this a record? God Bless 'til next time!!

Jennifer Fotheringham

Newly appointed officers at Upton.

Mrs. Julie Barrow Secretary Tel. 01427 838729 e-mail jdb1892@gmail.com

Mr. W.P. Fotheringham Treasurer Tel 01427 838347

Mrs. J. Fotheringham Faith Café Tel 01427 838347 e-mail j.fotheringham347@btinternet.com

West Stockwith

Church Contact: Mr B Tucker 01427 890197

Fundraising for the Nomad Trust

Many thanks to those of you who are continuing to use the collection boxes. I am very pleased to announce that we have raised another **£126.73** since 1st September 2013 as the new Wolds and Trent Circuit. This means the total amount of money raised since September 2012 is a magnificent **£1529.45**.

If you are awaiting a new collection box, please note that I am in the process of delivering bundles of boxes to participating groups across the circuit. These boxes won't have any numbers on, but I would be grateful if you could write your name and church on the front label before sending full ones back so that I can identify the sender.

Pat and I were at a Nomad meeting in mid-November when we were informed that there had been a recent increase in the number of young women seeking accommodation in the night shelter. It is too early to say if this is part of a trend, but it serves to remind us all that any of us could find ourselves homeless for one reason or another.

On a brighter note, several people in "move on" accommodation who have been learning life skills and skills for employment, have now obtained jobs and are moving into their own rented accommodation.

Homelessness Sunday

You may have noticed that Sunday 26th January, 2014 is designated as Homelessness Sunday on the new Plan. This is part of Poverty and Homelessness Action Week which runs from 25 January – 2 February 2014.

Churches Together in Lincoln and District have been asked to support this by the Nomad Trust. If your church would like to take part, perhaps by offering a soup and a roll lunch for a contribution after morning service, or by holding another fund raising event during that week, Nomad Trust will be very grateful for your support.

All money raised by this event will go towards keeping the night shelter open; something that is of key importance during the depths of winter.

Thank you for your continued support for the Nomad Trust, which enables it to help the homeless. If you would like a collection box, please contact me on 01673 842391, or speak to any of the circuit leadership team, or email ianh1910@gmail.com.

Ian Hardcastle

Wishing you all a Peaceful & Blessed Christmas.

May the love of God surround you & guide you in 2014.

*With our Best Wishes,
from the Circuit Leadership Team.*

Circuit Quiz

Thank you to everyone who supported the Circuit Quiz. Nine teams from around the circuit enjoyed a challenging and fun event. Congratulations to the winning team from Brookenby. Many thanks to Sue for preparing the questions and running the quiz which raised £220 for circuit funds.

We also had a raffle in aid of the Philippine Typhoon Appeal which raised £100. Thank you to all who donated prizes, to Ian for running the raffle and to Derrick for promptly sending the proceeds to MRDF.

A delicious supper had been prepared by Glenda and Midge, with Market Rasen ladies serving tea and coffee. Thank you to them, to everyone who provided food and to the gentlemen who helped set up and put away tables and chairs. A very enjoyable evening.

Janet Faulkner

A note from the Editor:

Thank you to all those who have sent cards and emails congratulating us on our new arrival. Baby Aliena was born at home on the 12th October weighing a very healthy 9lb 12oz.

I wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas and thank everyone who has contributed to the Link this year.

Kathy

PUZZLE PAGE – THE PRESENT TIME

Do the words ‘Christmas Shopping’ strike terror in your hearts? Well, instead sit and enjoy finding some GIFTS which are hidden among the sentences below. The presents are for ALL AGES and there are 35 to discover. Happy hunting.

e.g. The hassocks in church need restoring soon.

1. Auntie beryl has a wart on her chin, and a scar from a crash into a metal crossbar.
2. Eva’s excellent open tart was raffled to Ken Smith.
3. Simon eyed the plan to renew the Market Place.
4. They came racing to play with the toy high-jump Ernie had brought them.
5. Did you win either the trug or the steamer in the raffle?
6. Black ice – don’t slip – persons to be warned.
7. I miss Kate’s crumble and Greg loves her fruit loaf.
8. That’s terrible thunder, we are very frightened and the dog’s gone crackers.
9. We played Peek-a-boo, Kerry and Erin danced jigs away from the ornaments.
10. With the lamb shank I espied in the pantry, were the grouse brace, lettuce and kipper fumes which scented the place.
11. No-one’s watching, so give me a big dollop of cream on my chocolate Swiss roll.
12. Jeff lowers the cage, puts Jonto, Welsh corgi inside, and Zac, Ray, Onslow and ex-champ Ernie, drive to Crufts.

Blessed and joyous wishes to all our Link Puzzlers, from CMS.



THE LINK CAR PARK - WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 21. AUDI | 21. M.G |
| 22. AUSTIN | 22. MITSUBISHI |
| 23. B.M.W. | 23. MORGAN |
| 24. CHRYSLER | 24. NISSAN |
| 25. CITROEN | 25. PEUGEOT |
| 26. DAEWOO | 26. PORSCHE |
| 27. DAIHATSU | 27. PROTON |
| 28. DAIMLER | 28. RENAULT |
| 29. FIAT | 29. ROVER |
| 30. FORD | 30. SAAB |
| 31. HONDA | 31. SEAT |
| 32. HYUNDAI | 32. SKODA |
| 33. JAGUAR | 33. SUBARU |
| 34. JEEP | 34. SUZUKI |
| 35. KIA | 35. TOYOTA |
| 36. LADA | 36. VAUXHALL |
| 37. LEXUS | 37. VOLKSWAGEN |
| 38. LOTUS | 38. VOLVO |
| 39. MAZDA | |
| 40. MERCEDES-BENZ | |

KEYWORD CHALLENGE - ANSWERS

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| 11. CATS | 11. FINGER |
| 12. GREEN | 12. WORLD |
| 13. HOME | 13. BUS |
| 14. CHIP | 14. HORN |
| 15. CAPITAL | 15. FALSE |
| 16. MACHINE | 16. WING |
| 17. DUTCH | 17. BROWN |
| 18. WIRE | 18. FOOL |
| 19. GATE | 19. GROUND |
| 20. MAGIC | 20. FRENCH |

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**Please ensure all articles, for inclusion in the
February edition, are sent to
Kathy before;**

January 15th 2014