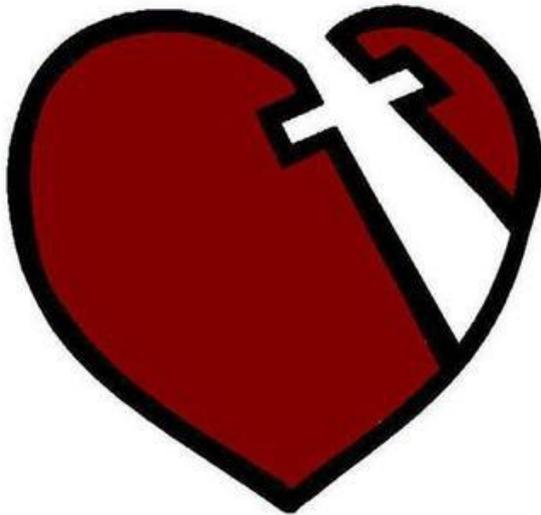


**THE WOLDS AND TRENT CIRCUIT
OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH IN LINCOLNSHIRE**

LINK



February 2014

Pastoral Letter

The coming months can feel like a strange time of year. Christmas probably feels like a very long time ago, the Christmas holidays are well and truly over and the Easter ones seem distant in the future. New Year's resolutions have possibly been broken and we may have given up on them. And so we carry on and go to the every day and the New Year doesn't feel a whole lot different from the last year.

It's easy to feel like we're stuck in a rut that things don't really change and that we are so busy doing things we have to do we put aside the things we want to do and most importantly the things God want us to do.

Many of us will know Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you declares the lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* (NIV) They are comforting words the idea that God has everything planned out for us and that these aren't plans of misery and sorrow but plans of hope.

The question is though if our lives are filled with our own plans or filled with other peoples plans, How is there room for the plans God has?

We may feel we're stuck in a rut, we may feel God is pushing us to do things, his plans, but our lives are too full we're too busy.

I read something recently that said "It is ironic that the early followers of Jesus could not be stopped by persecution, poverty, prison or martyrdom. But we are stunted by something as trivial as too much to do!"

It's a challenging thought, maybe difficult to face up to, but can any of us disagree?

Nowhere in the bible is there a point where the disciples say sorry God I've not got time. In fact Matthew 4: 19-20 says *"Come follow me" Jesus says "and I will send you out to fish for people"*. **At once** they left their nets and followed him.

No questions asked they just dropped what they were doing and went.

But for most of us that is a hard thing to do. To just drop what we are doing for someone is impossible. So how do we make time for God?

A few options: Don't fill our time with menial things, little arguments and discussions about things can go on for weeks and often in the grand scheme of things to God they really don't matter. Another thing is say no, often we're asked to do things and we know it's not our calling we know it's not a role suited to us but we say yes because there seems to be nobody else. Prayer is important, pray for time, he won't invent more hours but he will free up the ones we've got. But not only should we pray for time but also for guidance, let us be guided by the Holy Spirit, let Jesus tell us his plans for us just like he did for Peter and Andrew.

Most importantly we must make God our priority, when we die God won't congratulate us on our lovely house. He won't pat us on the back for working so hard just so we can have thousands of pounds of savings, and he won't thank us for filling our lives with the jobs he never wanted us to do. He will party though every time we follow his plans and do his work. God has given us amazing skills and attributes, we are all his amazing Creation and he has the most wonderful of plans for us. Plans that can give us hope for the future.

Yours in Christ

Gareth Sherwood

NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Beckingham

Church Contact: Mr T Thomas 01427 848728

Brookenby

Church Contact: Mrs M Nicholls 01472 398364

We continue to worship in harmony as one fellowship with our Anglican friends and we are grateful to the Ministry teams of both Churches for taking the services week by week. It is a big commitment and undertaking to lead our worship – “thank you” very much it is much appreciated.

Twenty of us, young and old, took part in a very meaningful Covenant Service yesterday, when Rev Andrew Lomax took us through the meaning of this very old traditional service originated by John Wesley more than 250 years ago.

We are already planning the annual service for the Women’s World Day of Prayer on Friday, 7th March, at 2.30 pm to which you are invited. This year the Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Egypt and the subject chosen is “Streams in the Dessert”.

Caistor

Church Contact: Mr M James 01472 851965

A large congregation met together to celebrate a very Special Birthday and commenced with singing joyously ‘Once in Royal David’s City’. Rev Andrew Lomax then asked who was up early to see what presents were waiting to be undone for the delight of the recipient. Some were brought forward for us all to see – from a satchel, soft toy, digi-camera, riddles, top hat, doggie suit, jelly babies etc.

Crackers are for Christmas. Why do we have Christmas crackers – with little treasures, hats and jokes ?

The Nativity Story tells us of Mary, who was the mother of God’s treasure, of Joseph protecting Jesus as he grew up, the Shepherds who were led by a star, the paper hat always a crown - of the Kings visiting Jesus with their gifts, and the jokes – a saying or prophesy.

‘Come and join the celebrations’ which we sang and celebrated with our offerings for NCH and some delicious Christmas cake (courtesy of Liz), chocolate fingers and jelly babies. A wonderful start for such a Special Birthday. *by David King*

The Advent Service on 1st December was held in Nettleton Chapel, when Worship Leaders along with Rev Andrew Lomax and Rev Anne Coates led the worship with drama and advent hymns. The service put us in the mood for preparation for Christmas and all that it stands for, the looking forward to the birth of Jesus Christ. After the service, the Nettleton friends invited us all for seasonal refreshments.

The following Saturday, the Bible Society coffee morning, an ecumenical event in Caistor, was held at the home of Robina and Louis King. There was a bring & buy stall and raffle, and very well supported when £261 was raised for Bible Society funds.

The second Sunday in December was our Sunday School prize-giving service when the theme was drama presentation of John the Baptist baptising Jesus in the Jordan. The children took part with some adult, and suitable hymns sung. Louis King presented the children with gift tokens and selection boxes after telling them a story of "A Wayne in a Manger". Coffee was served after the service.

The next Saturday was our annual Carol and Christmas Present event, when we had a 'Bring & Share' tea, a stall with presents wrapped up in Christmas paper, followed by singing all the well-known carols. A delightful evening.

The third Sunday service was taken by Mr Ian Hardcastle. However, the children, instead of Sunday School, had a Christmas party. We had games, cards to make and nibbles and sweets. The adults joined us, after the service, for coffee. In the evening, thirteen of us went carol-singing around the town. It was a lovely evening for singing in the open-air bringing the message to the Townspeople of Caistor. We were entertained with Christmas Fayre and warming drink, and people were very generous with their giving, and the proceeds of £152, were for a children's charity.

News from El Salvador

Paul and Maura Cook-Collins, with their children Scout (6), Assisi (5) and Saffi (nearly 3) recently celebrated the first anniversary of their arrival in Ahuachapan, El Salvador, where they serve as mission partners with the Methodist Church. They were expecting to help set up and run a new kindergarten but this project has been delayed. However the time has not been wasted, with their "gap year" spent learning Spanish, understanding and adapting to a new culture, struggling to integrate into new schools where learning is mostly by rote, and getting to know their neighbours and the local church family. Rather to their surprise, Paul and Maura now find their skills in teaching English much in demand and they are teaching four different paying classes for adults and children and a class for the Methodist church employees. They also teach at a church project every weekday afternoon, called "Infancia con futuro". The project aims to provide a safe place for children vulnerable to being recruited to a gang, to play eat, learn and meet their friends. The class ranges from 15 to 28 children (aged 8 to 16) and one challenge is persuading the children that they can have fun while learning!

A few more extracts from a recent newsletter:

Scout and Assisi are MUCH happier in their new school where the head nun is feisty but fun and the other nuns make jokes with Saffi. After school they play in the street with neighbouring children –the latest (alarming) entertainment has been fireworks which children can buy and set off freely.

Saffi now goes to nursery 2 or 3 days a week. He has lots of new friends.

Before Christmas we held a Christingle and short DIY nativity for our neighbours. A beautiful pink-bowed baby Jesus smiled and accepted the wise men's gifts graciously. We went to a neighbour's Posada (a bit like a nativity service) and felt really welcomed to this Catholic Latin American tradition.

This is a very sociable culture where you just turn up at people's homes and are welcomed. Our concept of having an open door is very much more literal here than before! We never know how many extras will be in the house at mealtimes.

Three things we love about El Salvador:

Relax: You don't plan, you just say "let's do that now" and off you go. Obviously frustrating as well, at times, but we're learning!

Make do and mend: nothing much is thrown away... there are at least 30 shoe-menders doing good business in the park.

Humble simplicity: It is not pretty when people do not have enough money to feed themselves, buy medicine for their children and have access to water in their house. But greed can be just as ugly, and it is hard to find in El Salvador the lust for more that is so accepted in the UK. Families here are happy to have enough.

Please pray imaginatively for Paul, Maura, Scout, Assisi and Saffi and for those with whom they live and work.

By Bridget Andrew

On the following Saturday it was our Carols and Cribs morning when the Chapel was decorated with numerous Nativity scenes and craft work making Christmas decorations and colouring cut outs to make a Christmas frieze and a Christmas banner. Coffee and seasonal refreshments were served and carols played during the morning.

The fourth Sunday was a drama service led by Andrew who told the story of 'Michael Mouse'. The animals went to see baby Jesus in the stable and all had gifts for Him except Michael Mouse. The noise of sleep, cows, owls, chicken and a cat were all heard in Chapel as they all came to the stable to worship the baby. Michael Mouse didn't have a gift but he still wanted to see the baby, so he climbed up the wall and found a hole, but he was halfway through when he got stuck. However, he stopped the wind blowing into the stable and so he kept the baby warm and this turned out to be his gift. A lovely service.

In the evening our united Carol Service was held in the Parish Church, when we joined with our Anglican friends, in a church filled with over 30 Christmas trees, which had been decorated and lit for their Christmas Tree Festival. Lessons were read and carols sung to the delight of everyone.

On Christmas Eve, we held our Candlelight Carol service at 6pm. We had the service last year at this time and found it was successful as it enabled more people, children and more elderly people particularly to come instead of at 11 30pm. Andrew led the service and decorated a Christmas tree with the help of the children, with a star, donkey, Mary, Joseph, a bell, sheep and baby Jesus, wisemen and a camel and then told a story about 'Light' and how we must all share a light, which was demonstrated that by lighting a candle from another candle does not detract from the light of the first candle. So we must all be Lights of the World, as Jesus is the 'Light of the World'.

The Christmas Day service was led by Andrew Lomax. This was followed by Christmas Lunch prepared and served in the Church Hall for anyone in the Church and in the Town, who would otherwise have been spending Christmas on their own. 23 people sat down to a wonderful meal and enjoyed an afternoon of good food and friendly fellowship organised by some dedicated and caring people.

We concluded our Christmas activities by holding our New Year party. Again, we had a 'bring and share' tea, and what a tea it was! This was followed by Quizzes for children and adults, several games and finished with the ever-popular 'Persian Market'. Everyone joined in and it was a splendid and enjoyable way to conclude our very busy schedule of Christmas services and activities, and thanks to everyone who organised and shared and worked to make a Christmas to remember.

A peaceful and Happy New Year to everyone and God bless you.

By Louis King

The Church family of Caistor wish to give sincere thanks to all those who gave up their own celebrations to prepare, cook and serve dinner and entertained people who would otherwise have been on their own on Christmas Day. Special thanks to the children who made this a true family day. You all showed us the real meaning of Christmas, how to celebrate the birth of Christ and made it a huge success. Many thanks , Caistor Methodist Church

Faldingworth

Church Contact: Mrs C Waite 01673 885249

We have enjoyed singing the Advent Carols this year. Mr Gordon Dixon was our preacher in the morning on Advent Sunday. The afternoon found us at Nettleton for the Circuit Advent Service. It was a really enjoyable service with a really warm welcome and delicious refreshments.

The following Sunday Colin Hare took our service and welcomed June too. She read one of the lessons. We tried out some of the disks which Anne Butler had brought for some of the carols,

Jane played the organ for some too. We lit the candles on the Advent ring. Brian had kindly sent us some of his bees' handiwork so we were very grateful. The following Sunday we welcomed Rev Anne Coates and she brought a visitor with her. We used some of the disks again. It was good to have John Green with for this service.

The Friends from All Saints joined us on 22nd December. Jane Lloyd led this service and we had mince pies and tea/coffee in the schoolroom afterwards. Jane Cram accompanies the carols on our organ at this service. We had an enjoyable Own Arrangement on the 29th December. Everyone present had brought a poem or reading and a favourite carol. It turned out to be quite interesting. We found that we had chosen carols which covered the period from Advent through Christmas to Epiphany – in that order, without knowing beforehand. Jane Cram played the organ to accompany the carols and also led the prayers. It was enjoyable for everyone present.

We began the New Year with a visit from Ken Knapton with Margaret too. We enjoyed singing the Epiphany carols and Margaret accompanied on the organ. It was so good to have them with us. Ian Hardcastle came this last Sunday. Pat came too and she read one of the lessons. Ian accompanied some of the hymns with his guitar. Jane Cram played the organ for some of them. We are getting used to "Singing The Faith". It is tricky, but we are fortunate in having really patient and gifted musicians to encourage us and we are truly grateful to all of them.

It is January 14th and I have just spotted one snowdrop and one aconite under the trees in our garden. *"If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind"* – Shelley

By Shirley and Laurie Oxborrow

Gainsborough

Church Contact: Mr M Childs 01427 610057

Circuit Website

www.woldsandtrentmethodist.org.uk

The new circuit website is taking shape. We hope that the site not only represents all of our church communities but can be a source of information and outreach. There is much more to add and develop, hopefully we will have a 'Thought for the Week' and if you feel that you would like to contribute to this, or if you have any ideas about what more we can add, then let me know. It is a circuit site and everyone is welcome to contribute.

All the churches have a page and it should be possible to develop them to be more than just a picture with a brief description of their history or weekly activities. Please have a look and check if your details are up to date, if you would like to make any changes then please contact Andrew.

If you would be interested in joining a small team helping to administer the site and regularly update the information on it then speak to Ian Hardcastle or Andrew. You will notice that an important aspect of the site is the way we present church life in pictures. Church is the people not the bricks and mortar, so if you have any pictures of recent events in the life of your church let Andrew have them (electronic or hard copies) and we will load them on to the site.

We would also like to have a dedicated children's and young people's section, which children/youth from across the circuit could access what is happening in the circuit and district for them. Any thoughts please contact Andrew or Ian.

Glentham

Church Contact: Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

What a great way to start the Christmas festivities – singing carols with the residents of Hemswell Cliff around the Christmas tree! Many more families then joined the retelling of the Christmas Story in the School Hall with Rachael's singing group leading the

singing and children dressed up in costume enacting the scenes as we were taken through all the events around the birth of Jesus, in Bible readings, carols and songs. Rev Anne gave a short address towards the end of the service and Rev Mark Briscoe shared in the closing prayers, as well as playing for us on the piano. We all stayed afterwards to share refreshments, have a chat and wish each other a very happy Christmas.

The following day Messy Church Christmas celebration was also a time of great fun. The children all took part, unwrapping a series of gifts which gave us clues to the next part of the story, or dressing up and taking on the characters during the re-telling of the events of the amazing birth of Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

The following Sunday we had a lovely Carol Service at the Chapel, 22nd December, with our friends from the Parish Church, Rev Anne led the service and Rev Adrian Smith shared his reflections on the Bible readings. It was very well attended and the Glenthams Singers sang two beautiful pieces, and then we all gathered for refreshments in the schoolroom.

We were wonderfully blessed by two anonymous donations to the work of the GodPod again this Christmas and so it was with great joy that we were able to visit families we have got to know through the work of the GodPod, on Christmas Eve, and take them and their children a gift to say 'God loves you'.

We will be out on the Pod again on 26th January and 9th and 23rd February – if you would like to join our Prayer Support Team, please give us a ring – we would love to have you on board!

We didn't have a service on 29th December, instead some of us met together in the schoolroom and watched a very interesting DVD called 'Finger of God' which challenged us all to believe the truth, miracles happen – even today!

The first Sunday on each month is generally Family Church and whilst the adult members of the congregation relax and share in the main part of the service Rachael and Alison look after the children in the schoolroom doing all sorts of interesting things. So it was on 5th January when sadly Colin Hare was unable to be with us to lead the service – we continue to pray for Colin and June.

We shared with our Anglican friends once again on 12th January at our Covenant service led by Rev Anne, the address was given by Rev Sally Turnbull, always a thought provoking and challenging service.

The Men's breakfast met for the first time in 2014 and goes from strength to strength enjoying speakers from many walks of life.

With our prayers for a Happy and peaceful New Year to you all

By Jenny & Peter

Men's Breakfast

'The Crown Inn', Glentham

8th February at 9am

(every 2nd Saturday of the month!!)

Full English Breakfast £5.50 and free chat!!!

Please Phone Peter 01673 878806 & book your place!



Gringley

Church Contact: Mrs P Gray 01427 629250

A Happy New Year to the Staff and Church members of the Wolds and Trent Circuit from everyone at Gringley. Thank you to the members of Glentham and Market Rasen for your Christmas cards.

Gringley members are looking forward to the start of the new Bible class being set up by Rev, Liz which will commence on Monday March 3rd at 2.30pm the first meeting will be at 2 Windsor Close, all are welcome.

Friendship Club 12th & 26th 2pm at 2 Windsor Close.

There is one alteration to our February services . On the 2nd we will be joining our Anglican friends at Clayworth Church for the Rev Jonathan Smithurst's farewell service at 10am.

We will be sorry to see Jonathan go as he has been instrumental in bringing our churches together for United worship and we hope his successor will be keen to carry on the good work . We wish Jonathan and his wife Lalage God's blessing in his new Nottinghamshire Parish.

Other February services 9th Mr Peter Atkinson,. 16th O.A. 23rd Mr Tim Smith. All services at 10.30am.

By Pat Gray

Growing Your Church

As part of our commitment to growing a sustainable church for the future, this year we are trying to build up and increase the study/prayer/fellowship groups that meet across the circuit. You don't have to be an experienced, trained leader to run one; you just need a willingness to give it a go. Why not set aside 5 evenings or afternoons in Lent, get together with a few others from your church or another church nearby and follow the York Course. Everything you need will be in the book (except refreshments!).

For Lent 2014 the material is based on building on the Rock from Matthew 7:24.

BUILD ON THE ROCK starts by looking at faith and doubt. Is it wrong – or is it normal and healthy – for a Christian to have doubts? Is there any evidence for a God who loves us? We hear from many witnesses. At the heart of a Christian answer stands Jesus himself. We consider his 'strange and beautiful story' and reflect upon his teaching, his death, his resurrection and his continuing significance.

We can supply the leaders' pack which includes the course CD to listen to. For everyone who attends it is beneficial to have the course booklet which costs £3.40, it is useful to have this with you between sessions for any follow up reading you may choose to do. If you are interested you can speak to Anne or Andrew or come along to the 'Taste & See' evening at Glenthams on Thursday 13th February 7pm, where *Building on the Rock* will be available for you to see. We will also have other material for you to look at that you may feel is more suitable for your church.

If you want to join in with a group but there isn't one in your church then speak to Anne, Andrew or Liz and we will connect you with one in another.

Lea

Church Contact: Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

Circuit New Year Party in Cornwall

For the seventh year a coach load of us went away for a New Year Party. This year we returned to Cornwall again and stayed for five nights at Treloyhan Manor in St Ives, a Christian Guild Hotel. The weather was glorious again, the company superb, the programme was full and the food was excellent. What more could we want? New Year's Eve in St Ives is spectacular with thousands of people thronging the streets in fancy dress – some ingenious ones that must have taken weeks to make. But not everyone wants to be in the town so late. It doesn't matter – everyone is catered for and there were lots and lots of activities at the hotel. I asked a few of those who went to write down a few comments and here they are:

The last time we went to Treloyhan Manor for the New Year was 2009. Our first very pleasant surprise was the standard of our bed room with en suite, well up to the standard of any good hotel. Not a lot of time was spent in the room though as there was always something happening in the hotel or visits to some interesting places, from a tour of a tin mine to a visit at a theatre for a pantomime. The best thing was the great atmosphere that the hotel generates with it's mixture of young (twenty year olds) to more mature (some with grand children and great grand children) all mixing with each other in fun, fellowship and bedtime stories on the stairs. TS.

We had a wonderful holiday in St Ives over the New Year. Our journey was really enjoyable with plenty of puzzles and quizzes to keep us occupied, nobody had a chance to get bored. Our hosts met us on arrival and were really friendly. They went out of their way to make sure we had a good time. We had interesting walks and journeys out in the coach. Our driver was excellent. All the meals in the hotel were top class, as was our room. Our visit to Truro and the pantomime, Cinderella was really good. We came home feeling really privileged to have been on holiday with such lovely people and thank you John once again for arranging it and including us. P & G W.

We'll never again open a tin without thinking of the brace Cornish tin miners. Going down the Geevor Mine was one of the highlights of a lovely New Year holiday in Cornwall. Staying in the beautiful Tudor Manor House, Treloyhan Manor, St Ives. This was one of the many outings and activities so well organised by John. He made sure we kept alert for the five days by handing out endless quizzes!! The hotel provides very comfortable accommodation and delicious food and as the coach driver stayed with us we enjoyed all the scenic outings. The visit to Truro meant that we could visit the cathedral and enjoy Cinderella at the theatre (Oh yes we could!) Even the weather was kind – lovely sunshine by day when we strolled from Lands End to Sennen and rain by night. The fun, friendship and fellowship provided a lovely start for 2014. We've already booked for next year. Thank you John. DK and SH. Tim and Sheila.

Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr G Taylor 01673 843939
glt332@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**

Wow, what a busy few weeks its been. Our Christmas celebrations started with a Christmas tree workshop on 23 Nov. People, clubs and societies were invited to make or donate a tree to decorate the Church. The response was incredible and we had enough trees to transform the church and provide a real sense of Christmas for December's services and events. 30 Nov. was set aside for a coffee & cake morning and for people to view the trees. That evening the DaCapo folk group arranged a Wassail and we had a fabulous time with songs, carols, bell ringing and poetry, followed by a lovely supper. The money raised was donated to the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance Service.

1 Dec. saw our final 150th Anniversary event. Rev Andrew led the morning service. He presented cheques to the three local charities nominated by the 150th Committee to receive our support, namely the Market Rasen Scout Group, the Poplars Nursing Home and the Chat n' Chew Alzheimer's Support Group. Following the service a traditional Christmas turkey dinner was served to some 40 people. This was a truly wonderful event, requiring lots of hard but enjoyable work, and grateful thanks go to all those who helped in any way. Thank You !!

On the afternoon of 15 Dec. the Market Rasen & District Choral Society presented their Christmas Concert. The church was filled once again with wonderful Christmas songs and music and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

On the evening of 17 Dec. we played host to the annual Rotary Carol Service. It was wonderful to see the church absolutely full of people including many children from Market Rasen, Middle Rasen and Faldingworth Primary Schools. They entertained us

with two Christmas songs each before they all came together on stage to sing a final song. They were absolutely marvellous. Santa came to visit and of course all the children received a gift from him. Then it was into the schoolroom for tea, coffee, cake and lots of chat and fellowship. What a wonderful evening !

The 22 Dec. Carol Service was an own arrangement. Jo led the singing of many carols on the organ and several members of the congregation contributed with readings and enactments. A lovely time was had by all and really set us in the Christmas mood.

The Christmas morning service was led by Rev Andrew and we had more of the Christmas message and sang those wonderful traditional carols again. It set us up to spend the rest of the day with family and friends.

Richard Alderson led our first service of 2014. As always he brought his energetic and engaging style of preaching and it was a real pleasure to 'wind down' Christmas with him. He made sure the service finished with his favourite carol !!

I think we all need a bit of a rest after all the activity. However it won't be long before 2014 brings fresh challenges which we all look forward to.

We send everyone our very best wishes and hope you all have a very happy and peaceful 2014.

By Bob & Rosie

Marton

Church Contact: Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

May 2014 be a year of life, witness and growth in our new Circuit.

An Advent service, conducted by Rev. Liz Childs included 5 of our congregation namely Ann Close, Madge Smith, Mary Walker, Rachel Wilson and Annette Wright

becoming members of the Methodist Church. We all promised to support them in the valuable work they all do for our Chapel.

It was lovely to welcome a Chapel full of friends and visitors to our Carol Service. We had hearty singing of well know carols, readings and solos. After the Carol Service the children entertained with many Christmas songs. This had all been arranged by Jim Porter and his family. Following on from this, tea and mince pies (which were made for us by a local caterer) were served and for which a note of thanks has been sent. Father Christmas managed to call in and gave every one a Christmas pre

January 2014 sees the start of our 200th`-year. We are now a much older congregation but hope to rise to the celebrations. What a wonderful time it must have been 200 years ago when a small home group of Marton people had such great faith and purpose to raise money to buy land and build a Chapel ; imagine that today!

Bible study classes have started again every Monday at 12.30 p.m. then Youth Club at 7 p.m.

Next Coffee morning will be on 26th February at 10.00 a.m.

Forthcoming events.

A band concert by the Lincoln Fire and Rescue will be held at Gainsborough Methodist Church. A bucket collection to be shared between Marton Chapel and Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue

The date of this will be Saturday 22nd March 2014 at 7 p.m.

Best wishes

Doris

Middle Rasen

Church Contact: Mrs A Surfleet 01673 843256

Certain sermons always stick in the mind – Malcolm Boot’s sermons come in to this category. In November the theme was ‘Past, present and future’ and he read a poem (hymn taken from “Mission Praise, edition 2”) Towards the beginning it goes:- “I know who holds the future, and he’ll guide me with his hand, With God things don’t just happen, Everything by him is planned”.

Malcolm came again December when his theme was “being prepared” and he read a poem by Helen Steiner Rice headed “The Story of the Christmas Guest” – it is well worth looking up.

In December, Jane Lloyd’s sermon also stood out. Her sermons are always short, to the point and she uses no notes. Her subject was about “thieves in the night” and you never know “when the Lord is coming” – from her own experiences.

Also in December, Ken Knapton used a childhood memory of a special cake stand on which is grandmother served little cakes (cup cakes these days !!) when they went to tea. The same cake stand still brings back memories and he pointed out that it is the memories that count, not the cake stand. We had other special sermons as well, but too many to recount here !

Just before Christmas, our minister Anne, organised a display of nativity and crib scenes. They ranged from a tint silver set in a ring case to cardboard cut-outs and a large stable and knitted figures made by Alice and her son – both must have taken hours to make !

On the 15th we had a Community Carol Service with readings from both churches and various organisations in the village. A dialogue was included which added humour to the service especially when Anne, who was the Virgin Mary, had to say “I’m pregnant” !! The whole dialogue was very clever and very funny !! During the service gifts were brought to the front being donated to the “Women’s Refuge” and suitable for both adults and children.

On the last day of October June Hare, Rev Anne Coates and Sylvia Tointon headed north as pilgrims to experience their “Walk to Emmaus” at Minster Acres in County Durha. They all came back very refreshed.

It’s been all parties and carol singing this month as one might expect ! Coffee Cake and Chat went out for lunch, but the Women’s Own, Guild and Luncheon Club stayed ‘at home’. The Guild, as usual, had an outing to the pantomime “Sleeping Beauty” at Louth.

“Step Forward” has carried on as usual despite Colin Hare being unwell - please include him in your prayers.

Now we are in to a New Year and many good New Year resolutions made. I wonder how many will be kept ! May God give you a happy year to remember. Remember the last verse of Malcolm Boot’s poem/hymn – “I do not know the course ahead, what joys and griefs are there. But one stands near who fully knows, I’ll trust His loving care”

A Happy New Year to you all from all at Middle Rasen.

By 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



SMALL GROUP FELLOWSHIP

A reminder that on Thursday 14th February at 7.00pm there will be an informal 'get together' at Glenthams Methodist Chapel for those who are part of small group fellowships and those who are interested in joining a group. We are hoping to have two different 'taster sessions' available at this meeting so if you are not already part of a group or would like fresh ideas then this is an opportunity to see what is available.

In addition to the York course we also hope to have a selection of other Lent course books/resources available to purchase from Unicorn Tree Books (Lincoln) on that evening. If you have any Lent material which you have used in the past which you think might be useful to share with the group then please bring it along.

If you were at our previous meeting and haven't yet returned the form listing the resources you have used in the past please could you complete it and bring it to the meeting or email it to me – thank you. Looking forward to seeing you there.

Anne

Nettleton

Church Contact: Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

It was really wonderful to see our Chapel so full as it was for the Circuit Advent Service. The picture of John in a dress, Jenny in rollers and Midge in her pinny will stay with me for a long time. Thank you all who played an active part and thank you to all who organised the Service, I'm sure it was enjoyed by everybody. Mince pies, stollen and cakes were served with tea/coffee after and thank you to all who supplied them.

The Nettleton Joint Churches Christmas Bazaar was a great success with people queuing to come in before the doors were opened. It was opened by Father Christmas who gave sweets to the children as the adults spent their money on all the lovely goodies that were available. The money raised was £1,143-34p and this was shared equally between the Parish Church and the Chapel. Thanks to all the helpers, those that supplied goods to sell and most important those who came and bought them.

MARCH 1st

- Monthly Coffee Morning from 10 30am
- Followed by lunch
- Home-made Soup and Rolls
- Selection of Desserts
- Tea and Coffee

By Jean Field

North Kelsey

Church Contact: Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

Reading the December/January issue of "Link", it was great to see the range of things the different churches are doing to express and promote faith. We certainly should benefit from pooling ideas through this magazine!

Christmas will feel a long time ago by the time you are reading this and so I won't comment in detail. The Possada event was celebrated in school by passing the figures of Mary and Joseph from class to class and their journey continued in homes in the community, with the 'hand-over' giving an opportunity to share fellowship. The journey ended at church when those who had offered hospitality could get together over a cuppa and cake. This was very much a trial run and we hope to plan further ahead

next year if we decide to repeat the custom. The craft morning for children and adults was enjoyed and with the support of Anne and Sarah, we are thinking about beginning a monthly Messy Church on Monday afternoons. We are to experience a session when we will be the “children” to introduce us to the format. Promises to be good fun! In February we hope to field a team for a quiz evening, run to raise funds for our village hall. It is an annual contest in which all the organisations are asked to take part and to take turns to provide questions or refreshments. It is a good opportunity to be involved in village life as a group rather than just individually. I would never want to be on a team, but I’ve enjoyed being in the audience, especially as all ages join in and that seems to happen so rarely.

The Women’s World Day of Prayer on Friday March 7th has been prepared by the Christian women of Egypt on the theme “Streams in the Desert.” We hold a united service with the Anglicans which will be at All Hallows Church this year, at 2pm. If you have never joined in this event, it is well worth doing. To feel part of something which is happening world- wide is quite special and the service also gives an insight into the circumstances of the people who prepared it, which are often far more challenging than our own. There will be a service near you, or of course you would be welcome at North Kelsey.

I use the BRF “New Daylight” notes and one of the recent prayers seemed appropriate for us as a fledgling Circuit and so I’ll conclude with this, written by Andrew John, Bishop of Bangor:-

“Create in your church the unity of the Spirit, O God, in a bond of peace. Open our hearts to the wisdom of risk and journeying and may good things come from lives venturing together. For Jesus Christ’s sake. Amen

God bless,
Sylvia

Upton

Church Contact: Mrs D Jubbs 01427 838791

Hello everyone. A Happy new year to you all. The decorations are down. The family gatherings are over and all seems as it was. BUT Hopefully the joy and excitement of celebrating our Lord's birthday is still with us. Here in Upton the celebrations go on. What glorious sunrises and sunsets we have enjoyed in recent weeks. We have enjoyed some wonderful days where we can appreciate all that is good in our lives. We have been thankful that we have escaped the horrors of flooding and power cuts, and are still praying for all those suffering around coastal and river areas.

This morning, in Church, we had a third lady accepted into membership. We had a lovely service and welcomed Gwen Bingham as a member into Methodism. She was unwell when our other ladies were made members, but she is now fully recovered and she is now a member of our Church.

We have had a fairly quiet start to the year, but the next Chapel coffee morning will be on Wednesday February 12th between 10-30 and 12-00noon. All are welcome!!

Our experimental "Faith Café" will take place on Tuesday January 28th at 2-00pm. This is an opportunity to come along, have a coffee and sing a few hymns from "Singing the Faith". The café is open to all who like to sing and have a chat. If it goes well we shall plan more dates in the future.

I think that is all our news for now so it is good bye and God bless from all at Upton. Xxxx

West Stockwith

Church Contact: Mr B Tucker 01427 890197

Link Committee Meeting

19th February

7.30pm

**At the home of the Editor
(10 Rawlinson Avenue, Caistor)**

A catch up meeting to review how the new Link is progressing.

The Nomad Trust

On 8th January, 2014, the Nomad Trust celebrated its 30th birthday. In 1984, the Nomad Day Centre first opened on Free School Lane, Lincoln. It offered main meals, warmth, companionship and advice to the community and those in need.

Many thanks to those of you who have continued to support the Nomad Trust. Since September 2013, you have helped to raise £177.83 for the Charity. The overall total raised by the Circuit since 2011 now amounts to £1580.55.

Thanks also to our community at Brookenby St Michael's and All Angels Church, who recently held a gift day for Nomad in December 2013.

The Trust would like to say thank you to all of you who have supported it over the last 30 years, who have seen the charity go through many changes and still stuck by it.

“We still endeavour to support the homeless in any way we can, and it is you that makes that possible with your kind donations and support.”

If you would like a replacement collection box, please contact me on 01673 842 or Email ianh1910@gmail.com .

Ian Hardcastle

THE PRESENT TIME - ANSWERS

1. TIE CHINA SCARF TALC
2. VASE PEN TOKENS
3. MONEY PLANT
4. CAMERA TOY JUMPER
5. WINE RUG TEA
6. SLIPPERS
7. SKATES GLOVES
8. UNDERWEAR DOG CRACKERS
9. BOOK JIGSWA ORNAMENT
10. HANKIE BRACELET PERFUME SCENT
11. WATCH DOLL CHOCOLATES
12. FLOWERS TOWELS CRAYONS HAMPER

CMS

MATERIAL MATTERS - WORDSEARCH

P	O	L	Y	E	S	T	E	R	M	I	N	E	N
O	L	E	A	T	H	E	R	E	B	B	U	R	I
P	N	N	E	M	A	H	G	N	I	G	B	E	L
L	I	O	Z	T	N	I	H	C	X	H	T	P	S
I	K	L	U	N	T	S	V	S	T	R	A	W	U
N	S	Y	A	O	U	E	E	O	E	F	O	O	M
E	G	N	G	Y	N	K	L	D	N	O	O	R	O
N	I	S	J	A	G	C	V	E	L	M	C	S	H
O	P	U	C	R	E	P	E	E	N	I	I	T	A
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T	U	D	E	B	A	R	A	T	H	E	A	D	R
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C	H	L	L	I	W	T	A	F	F	E	T	A	F
C	A	N	D	L	E	W	I	C	K	L	I	S	L

From earliest times, human beings have used or made many different TYPES OF FABRICS, either to cover themselves or to use as soft furnishings in their homes.

Can you discover the 40 hidden above, although you wont find any sack cloth or ashes? One word contains 2 answers.

CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD, HOW THEY GROW THEY TOIL NOT, NEITHER DO THEY SPIN, YET SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY WAS NOT ARRAYED LIKE ONE OF THESE.

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Rev. Liz Childs – 01427 610057

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

February 15th 2014