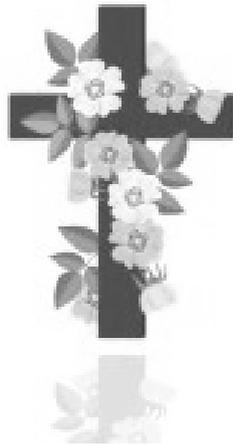


**THE WOLDS AND TRENT CIRCUIT
OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH IN
LINCOLNSHIRE**

LINK



March 2015

Pastoral Letter

As we enter the month of March it always seems to me a time of anticipation. As the clocks go forward and the days lengthen, we hope for a bit more sunshine and start to see the signs of new growth as the daffodils & crocuses emerge.

However only a few weeks ago it seemed a different story. When I was at Launde Abbey in Leicestershire, the snow had covered the ground and the pond was frozen. The bulrushes all around the edges were very bare, & brown. They looked vulnerable & fragile as the cold wind pushed them back and forth as if they would break. Yet looking at them closely, their roots were still held under the icy surface in water. The bulrushes continued to gain their nourishment because their roots were still in the water even through the cold winter months.

As Winter gives way to Spring, the bulrushes will regain their green colouring and develop their brown ‘cylinder’ like heads. They will grace the ponds and the banks of the streams and dykes amongst the daffodils and other new growth.

Churches and individuals can find themselves in a ‘Winter’ period when nothing seems to be happening. Times of vulnerability; perhaps because of unexpected circumstances or events, possibly even with the seeming predictability of certain aspects of life.

It is important to keep our spiritual roots in the ‘living water’ continuing to feed on God’s word; asking God to refresh and replenish us with his Holy Spirit, even in the difficult times. Eventually ‘Spring’ will come and there will be new growth, strength & beauty often in unexpected ways!

Psalm 1:3 “He will be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season; its leaf will not wither, and whatever he does will prosper.”

(Modern English Version)

Anne Coates



NEWS FROM AROUND THE CIRCUIT

Brookenby

Church Contact: Mrs M Nicholls 01472 398364

Caistor

Church Contact: Mr M James 01472 851965

All Age Worship needs a lot of thought, prayer and preparation to provide a fresh understanding involving every age group.

On Sunday, Bridget, Kate & Liz together fulfilled this by preparing the service around the Bible reading from Luke Ch.4 v 16-22

Four very willing little helpers rushed out to take part in telling the “story”.

Isabelle was weighed down with begging books- she was so poor. Kitty was a prisoner, handcuffed and chained-they were so heavy. Anna was burdened down by many boxes you couldn't see her, each box explained why she had so many problems. Benjamin was blind and had been offered many pairs of glasses to see if they would help-they were useless, but one pair fitted so he kept them on.

Jesus came to fulfil the message from Isaiah 61 v1-2

Isabelle dropped her books-she was no longer poor

Kitty's chains fell off-she was no longer a prisoner

Anna's boxes went flying everywhere-she was no longer oppressed

Benjamin threw all the glasses away (or almost) he was no longer blind.

To help them understand the real meaning of blindness, they were blindfolded and led as instructed around various obstacles, some were quicker than others!

The rest of us were arranged in teams and given coloured paper to write down all the miracles performed by Jesus and these were stuck on to a board- speed was important!

All age worship does help us enjoy listening and hearing God's work in a practical way together.

The following week Andrew explored the meaning of being Blessed. God does care so much about each one of us and showers us with His Blessings.

“There shall be showers of Blessings

Send them upon us O Lord

Grant to us now a refreshing

Come and now honour Thy Word”

(from a favourite old S Sankey Hymn)

Faldingworth

Church Contact: Mrs C Waite 01673 885249

Our Covenant service was held at Chapel on a chilly January morning. We were so pleased that our friends from the Parish Church came to share this service with us. We were glad to welcome Rev Anne Coates to lead this service too. Our wall heaters were a welcome asset for all of us, but we do know that scarves and gloves and warm coats are essential on a cold and frosty morning.

We had our own arrangements service on the 8th February and it proved to be a happy time. We moved into the schoolroom and took our Singing the Faith hymn books and disks with us.

Readings from the lectionary were followed using the Good New Bibles. We used “Think of a world without any flowers” as a prayer, taking the verses as solo readings and joining to gather for the chorus of “We thank you Lord for..” It was very successful.

We began the hymns with “The Church is one Foundation” followed by “What a friend we have in Jesus” and closed with a very suitable “One more step along the world I go”.

After sharing the grace with each other, we stepped out of the Chapel into bright sunshine in a clear blue sky.

Laurie Oxborrow

Gainsborough

Church Contact: Mr M Childs 01427 610057

Lent activities have already started, with a prayer group on Ash Wednesday, to be continued on Wednesdays throughout Lent. The Lent cross is there, and the stones marking Jesus’ temptation by the devil were placed on 22nd February, the first symbol as we make our way towards Easter. Lent courses are taking place in the two fellowship groups.

Rev. Liz Childs will take the Mothering Sunday service, her final chance to do this as an active minister in the circuit. There will be more time for ‘final chances’ now, because her active ministry is extended until January, as you may be aware.

Easter activities are in place. On Maundy Thursday we join with others in the Gainsborough section at Lea, 7.00pm. Good Friday sees a quiet reflection at

10.00am at GMC. Easter Day breakfast together precedes the 10.30 Communion, again led by Liz.

We look forward to Easter, while remembering all that Jesus did for us on the way to the cross.

Mike Childs

Spring is in and on the air!

I don't mind winter, but I really look forward to spring and the clocks changing. It makes getting up at 4am at weekends a little easier! Not many people realise presenting weekend breakfast on BBC Radio Lincolnshire involves getting up so early. They just hear me on the radio and don't know what goes on behind the scenes.

Sunday breakfast is a special programme and quite different from the rest of the week. We start off with an hour of traditional hymns mixed in with some more contemporary Christian music. It's always nice when I get letters and emails for requests. It's usually a busy show with news from Lincolnshire's churches and other faith communities.

With the warmer weather round the corner, why not send in your gardening questions for our experts to answer. Perhaps you have ambitious plans for your garden this year, or maybe you would just like some help bringing it back to life after winter!

I'm on air from 6 every Saturday and Sunday morning on 94.9FM and online at www.bbc.co.uk/radiolincolnshire (The gardening phone-in is from 9 on a Sunday)

I hope you can join me!

Rosie Duffield
BBC Radio Lincolnshire

Glenthams

Church Contact: Mr T Faulkner 01673 818718

Men's Breakfast 14th March
9am at The Crown, Glenthams

Sugar & Spice 21st March
9.30am at The Willows, Glenthams

Important note

Lively worship with VISION - our friends from Welton - April 12th 6pm

Wonderful news!!!

The Men's' breakfast continues – we were a little doubtful due to the change of tenant at the Crown, but hey folks prayer works, give it a try. On that note we have been distributing a booklet 'Try Praying', to many folks with whom we come into contact. So far we've passed on well over fifty, give it a try just click on the website 'Try praying' for info.

We've all enjoyed messy Church and Family church it is great to see the younger folks hearing the 'good news'. Our grateful thanks to 'Alison and Rachael for taking responsibility for the children. The words in StF662 spring to mind 'the children of today are the disciples of tomorrow'.

Lively music is enjoyed by us all and thanks to Andrew such was the scene at the evening service, we shall miss him and his guitar (family too of course). After an eight week break God Pod will once again be open for business on the Hemswell Cliff estate on 22nd Feb as we begin our 2015 twice monthly visits. Please consider offering a couple of hours on Sunday afternoon to pray for us whilst we're out and about (ring us at home please if you can)

It's all good news at Glenthams, Sugar and Spice has gained a few new members and goes from strength to strength. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation we have raised enough money for our third toilet twinning. Saying that I wonder how many of us give thanks for things we take for granted when many of the world's population live in poverty.

Spring is almost upon us, Easter and the Cross beckon as we praise God for the changes He performs in our lives.

Have a wonderful Easter and may you know always the joys of the risen Lord Jesus.

Jenny & Peter

Church Contact: Mrs M Lilley 01427 615933

Thursday 19th February

2.15pm

Village Guild

Mr Giles Braithwaite

“The Antarctic”

Call to action

The Israelite prophet Micah said:

"What does the Lord require of you? Only to act justly, love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

God of mercy and source of justice,

pour on your people such love and compassion that

we cannot remain silent,

we cannot tolerate injustice and poverty.

As your grace fills our hearts

so may we be stirred into action

to demonstrate your love for all the world

and for all creatures that live and move on this earth.

Dr Deidre Homer, a Methodist local preacher in training, via
www.methodist.org.uk

Marton

Church Contact: Mrs D Kitchinson 01427 718634

March 23rd

Informal meeting with fish & chips 12.30pm

March 25th

Coffee Morning 10am

All Welcome

Please note:

The stockyard on the south side of the Marton Chapel is private but is used for Chapel parking. However the ground is uneven and so for pedestrians and cars, use is at own risk.

There is parking at weekends and evenings on the garage forecourt opposite, by kind permission of Mr Tony Airey.

In case of overflow-yes it has been known there is ample parking a few yards away at No.5.

Thank you

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

Loving Lord let us not stand aside and tolerate
lack of basic human resources,
dehumanising practices,
or the use of violence to disempower your people.

Give us strength to act and challenge hatred,
and instead bring your justice and mercy.

In your name we humbly ask that we may be a channel for your peace and
love.

Amen.

Dr Deidre Homer

Market Rasen

Church Contact: Mr G Taylor 01673 843939
glt332@yahoo.co.uk

As mentioned in the last issue of the Link Rev Andrew led our Covenant Service. He spoke of our need to re-affirm our commitment to God. He queried whether we should simply honour the agreements we make or should we endeavour to go that bit further.

At that service our church was the recipient of many banana boxes and carrier bags full of clothes and bedding items for the 'Clothes for Iraq' appeal. The following week we heard that some 80 boxes had been received and around 200 had been collected in the wider community. Giving to others less fortunate than ourselves is surely part of the commitment we make to God, but people's generosity is often quite astonishing. Just look at the last issue of the Link and see how much money has been raised in various ways for various causes. Is this an example of exceeding our commitment?

But of course people find other ways of giving. Time, compassion, concern, and friendship are just some of the qualities we use to help others. Rosie and I have been fortunate (or unfortunate depending on your point of view) to meet some of the most caring and kindest people amongst the Nursing and Caring community of our local hospitals and Nursing Homes.

At a time when we are all bombarded by the many charities seeking our generosity, it is easy to become overwhelmed by it all. But we all know it is right to give where we can and in whatever way we can. Our world would be all the poorer if we didn't.

Bob Bailey

Middle Rasen

Church Contact: Mrs Moira Nicholls 01673 849129

Throughout the last few weeks there seems to have been a theme of “listening” – whatever to or from God, or friends etc.

On 18th January Ian Hardcastle (one of our own members) took the service. He talked about Eli, Samuel and Nathaniel and that not everything is as it seems. Ian illustrated this by putting a picture of a lady’s head on the screen and asked the congregation who could see a young lady. A few hands went up. He then asked who could see an old lady and a few more hands went up. Ian then suggested we look again and asked who could see both ladies. He pointed to part of the picture around the neck. After a few moments, many hands went up including my own. At first, I had thought it a young lady’s face and then suddenly I could see what he was trying to tell us. It is like life – things seem to be a puzzle and then suddenly everything makes sense. This happened to Eli. When Samuel went to Eli three times during the night, he had thought that it was Eli calling to him. Eli realised that it was God calling to Samuel and sent him back to bed. Samuel becomes a prophet – the apprentice becomes the master.

This Sunday has reminded us it was the second of Epiphany which means ‘making an appearance or revelation – the essential meaning of something’. We sang one of my favourite hymns – ‘Here I am Lord, It is I, Lord’ from the hymn beginning ‘I, Lord of sea and sky’. Ian went on to tell the story of Jesus recognising Nathaniel from the time he had seen him sitting under a fig tree with Philip. Jesus calls Nathaniel to follow him, it is a revelation to Nathaniel that Jesus should know him. Nathaniel recognises Jesus as the Son of God.

Cynthia Bunch, from the Parish Church, took the Guild meeting on 21st January. She really gave us something to think about! She spoke of ‘Christian Listening’ (Acorn Christian Healing Foundation). She pointed out that good listening can bring about healing (listening is different from counselling). It is important not to ‘chip in’ or interrupt whilst someone is confiding in you. Whilst they talk, they are often then able to work out things for themselves and get their thoughts marshalled.

If it helps, the listener can use positive and ‘open’ body language.

Cynthia did a ‘brain storming’ session to begin with – we had to write down our answers to a) when I am not listened to, I feel ... and b) when I am listened to, I feel ... We also had to think of words that described our feelings – a very interesting exercise. She then gave us an exercise to do in pairs – one of us was to be the listener and one was to do the talking – for three minutes!

It seemed a long time and I found it very difficult not to make understanding noises and comments whilst I was listening! The listener should act as a ‘sounding board’.

Previous to this, Cynthia read from a child’s reading book about a child who want to talk and ask questions but the adults hadn’t time to listen to him! They were too busy so he turned into a ‘monster’ to get attention!!!

Instead of a prayer, Cynthia ended by reading a translation that put the ‘Martha and Mary’ story from the Bible in to context, which went back to ‘listening’. The whole evening gave us a lot of food for thought. She pointed out that Zacheus, the tax collector, was listened to by Jesus and his whole life changed forever. Zacheus tried to put everything right as far as he could.

Dennis Lockwood continued with the theme of Samuel’s calling from God. The call of Ezekiel and Jeremiah who weren’t sure they wanted to follow Jesus, and also the calling of the first four disciples who gave up their jobs and families to follow Jesus. There is work for each one of us in the name of Jesus.

Dennis asked us if we had had any nuisance telephone calls this week and how had we answered them??? Today, each one of us has had a call from God and come to Chapel, whether it was a member of the congregation, a steward, an organist or to make coffee etc. Do we always reply to God’s call? Dennis had been called to be a preacher from a very early age. We are not all called to do great things – we can only be what we are, accept the call and follow it, and that is to be a good listener – which linked up with Cynthia’s talk.

Lent began on 18th February. As Ian Hardcastle said in our February monthly letter, 'Lent' is a crucial time to remember the lands in which Christianity has its' roots – Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Israel, Palestine and, above all, Jerusalem. These are names that remind us of crucial events in the Bible, but also names that dominate our news today.

We sent a marvellous amount of warm clothing etc. from our Chapel to the refugees of Iraq and Syria – many of whom are Christians. These countries form some of the oldest Christian churches – some tracing their origins right back almost to the very beginning of Christianity. Arab doesn't always equal Muslim!!! Jesus has time for everyone – as some trades' people say 'no job is too small'!!!

Liz Margrave

Nettleton

Church Contact: Mrs Jean Field 01472 852056

At our United Service we joined with friends from St John the Baptist, which is the Parish Church next door, on a very snowy day. Many said it was good to be in Chapel as it was nice and warm! With Rev. Andrew Lomax leading and Jan Healy preaching, they both gave us a good service with lots of things to think about later.

Jean Field

Dates for your Diary:

March 7th – Monthly Coffee Morning 10.30am-12 noon

April 4th – Monthly Coffee Morning 10.30am-12 noon

Misterton

Church Contact: Mr S Bilton 01427 810866

Six short prayers for the Lenten period

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. **Amen**

Prayers for others

God of mercy and love let us serve you in our world

We pray for desert people,
who live in a dry, parched land

who lack water

who travel constantly
so that they might live.

Give them living water.

Let the deserts bloom into flower.

We pray that those who work on climate change
may find solutions so that the erosion of soil may be halted or reversed.

We pray that water and other vital supplies might not be used as a weapon of war
in countries where resources are scarce.

Dr Deidre Homer

North Kelsey

Church Contact: Mrs M Thomas 01652 678365

We have now taken delivery of our copies of Singing the Faith – words books and the Organ Music comprising three volumes! We launched it well and truly when Malcolm Coates was our preacher last Sunday. We look forward to welcoming folk to our Women's World Day of Prayer service (we invariably have men come to ours !) when Jane Lloyd will be our speaker. It is at NKMC at 2 30pm and not All Hallows as I circulated on a flyer with the plan.

On Saturday 14th March at 6 30pm we are holding another Pudding Club which is our Chapel Anniversary weekend. We have light starters followed by lots of puddings. It would be very useful if you can book in as soon as possible – we would hate to run out of puddings!! Phone me on 01652 678365 or email midgethomas@btinternet.com - ticket price is held at £6. Our Lent Group starts this week and we are using Nick Fawcett's study course entitled 'Spot The Difference'. In the five sessions we shall be challenged "to consider how well our lives display love, allegiance to Christ, joy, concern for others, and faith." When a group of us were commissioned as Worship Leaders we were each presented with a book token and I spent mine on Nick Fawcett's 'Daily Prayer – Time with God'. It is structured with material for every day of the year, including a seasonal supplement. I have found it very challenging and really useful when we prepare our frequent Own Arrangement services at NKMC.

With all good wishes,

Midge

Upton

Church Contact: Mrs Julie Barrow 01427 838729

Hello to everyone from all at Upton Chapel.

Please note. Our monthly coffee mornings will resume on Wednesday March 11th 10-30am - 12-00 noon. All are welcome!!!

As I prepare to write for this month I must tell you that Patrick and I have just returned from a trip to Turkey. The holiday was an opportunity not to be missed and, we decided to go, knowing very little about Turkey. We visited the Aegean Coast and the holiday was described as a "cultural" experience.

The first place we visited was Ephesus an ancient city mentioned in the Bible, but dating back to about 6000BC. We had a wonderful guide who took us round the ruins and remains of the city and we visited the theatre which had a seating capacity of 25,000. While there we were told of the visits of St Paul who preached to the Ephesians and wrote his letters to them that we read today. It proved to be quite emotional standing on the spot where Paul had been 2000 years before. We felt very privileged.

We arrived home last Monday and I would like to thank Gay Hicks for playing the organ, and also thank whoever put the heating on. We do value your help!!! Now we are preparing for "Pancake Day". Our 4 grandsons have booked themselves in for a pancake party, so that sounds like fun!!!! Then of course we come to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, when we start to prepare for Easter, our most important festival of the year. Many of us will be giving up things to help us through Lent and some may be thinking of doing more than usual as they prepare for Easter. Whatever we plan let us always try to put God first as we travel through Lent trusting Him to help us in all we do. I would like to finish with the final verse in Ephesians:-

"May God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give to all Christian brothers peace and love with faith. May God's grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with undying love."

Jenny Fotheringham

LENT STUDY IN OUR CIRCUIT 2015

CAISTOR

Praise Him!

Songs of Praise in the New Testament

Caistor's Rambling with God & The Men's Group

Join together for five weeks during Lent

To explore some of the songs of praise

In the New Testament.

Gratitude, Image of God, Humility,
New Birth and the Word Made Flesh.

Starts Tuesday 24th February. 7:30pm
contact: Andrew 01472 851287

Market Rasen

Lent Lunches at Market Rasen Methodist Chapel
March 6th (preceded by Holy Communion at 11am)
March 13th
March 20th
March 27th

Informal light lunch of soup, with a collection for charity
and a seasonal thought for the week.

Middle Rasen

Middle Rasen joint Anglican/ Methodist Lent Study Group
Mondays: 23rd Feb, 2nd March, 9th March, 16th March, 23rd March.

10.30-12.00 Middle Rasen Parish Hall

7.30-9.00 Middle Rasen Methodist Chapel

The morning session is repeated each evening, all are welcome.

WORDSEARCH – ISLAND HOPPING

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

This month, puzzlers, you are invited to search for ISLANDS. There are 40 of them to discover, though not all are palm-fringed or sun-soaked. 10 are around BRITAIN’S COAST and the rest are WORLDWIDE.

“No man is an island, entire of itself,
Anyman’s death diminishes me
Because I am involved in mankind;
And therefore never send to know
For whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee”

John Donne

HEAVENS ABOVE!- WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. EARTH | 18. GALE | 36. STORM |
| 2. JUPITER | 19. HAILSTORMS | 37/38. SUN/SET |
| 3. MARS | 20. HURRICANE | 39. THUNDER |
| 4. MERCURY | 21. ICE | 40. TORNADO |
| 5. NEPTUNE | 22. JET | 41/42. WHIRL/WIND |
| 6. PLUTO | 23. LIGHTNING | 43. U.F.O |
| 7. SATURN | 24. MIST | |
| 8. URANUS | 25. MOON | |
| 9. VENUS | 26. NIGHT | |
| 10. BLIZZARD | 27. PLANETS | |
| 11. BREEZE | 28/29. RAIN/BOW | |
| 12. CLOUD | 30. SATELLITE | |
| 13. COMET | 31. SKY | |
| 14. DAWN | 32. SLEET | |
| 15. DAY | 33. SMOG | |
| 16. ECLIPSE | 34. SNOW | |
| 17. FOG | 35. STAR | |

LINK WORDS PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. MOCK | 17. ZEST |
| 2. HAULS | 18. WILTS |
| 3. BUN | 19. BROOD |
| 4. STUMP | |
| 5. SLING | |
| 6. MESS | |
| 7. MAYO | |
| 8. MATCH | |
| 9. TICK | |
| 10. PICKET | |
| 11. BURY | |
| 12. FINE | |
| 13. CLIPPED | |
| 14. GUARDIAN | |
| 15. COACH | |
| 16. CORK | |

CMS

A note from the editor- please wait for the next issue to find out answers for puzzles as requests from the Editor will be declined ☺

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

March 15th 2015

**Please note any articles received after this date will be not be
included and will be saved for the next issue.**