

## Addresses

...But whose New Leaf?

Yes, it's that time of year again, and although I've always felt that January 1 is a lousy day for making rash promises (how many people stagger out of bed at lunchtime groaning 'never again?') no doubt many folk will greet 2015 vowing to cut down on food/fags/booze, get more exercise, read more, watch less or even start to say their prayers more regularly. All good and sensible and as long as we don't set ourselves targets so ludicrous that we can't possibly make them (and therefore by the end of the first week are back in our old groove) it's probably quite a good thing. I wonder, though, whether in 2015 we might think about bigger new leaves?

It can only be a matter of days before the Great Election Countdown begins, and we can already see the parties jockeying for position. No doubt appeals will be made to all sorts of parts of our nature, but especially, I suspect, to the bits we'd rather not admit to – self-interest, suspicion, resentment, envy. I understand that we tax-payers are due to get a letter explaining how 40% of government expenditure goes on benefits: I wonder whether it'll make it clear that most of it's pensions, not Jobseekers or whether that will be hidden in the small print. Perhaps I should live in hope....

As we get our once in five years chance to send messages about what sort of future we want, perhaps a future shaped by those unpleasant characteristics isn't good enough. We know that all the faith communities are increasingly alarmed by the growth of inequality in Britain; that Archbishop Justin spoke of how he was more shocked by encountering hunger in this country than in parts of the Third World; how Pope Francis has spoken of his horror at how European policy on refugees and migrants is turning the Mediterranean into a cemetery; even how the demands made on our own food bank are increasing.

The idea of community is very deeply rooted in our Christian faith: it has never been good enough for us to think only of our own well-being, even if we are personally reasonably well-behaved. So as the Resolution list comes out for revision, alongside asking the question 'What sort of person am I called to be?' we could do to ask 'And what sort of society do I want to live

in?' And once we have an answer, we can ask 'And how do I go about making it happen?' Or will 'What's in it for me?' rule the polls come springtime?

Fr David

**A Happy, Peaceful and Blessed New Year to all our readers, contributors and advertisers from the Editors.**



### **NEW YEAR AT THE ROPEWALK**

A new year sees a new programme of exhibitions at Ropewalk Contemporary Art & Craft and live music, theatre and comedy at Ropery Hall.

The highlight of the first six months at The Ropewalk is the 10th anniversary celebrations of its opening in April 2000. To mark the occasion the gallery returns to where it all began with a revisit to our first exhibition featuring the work of Twink Addison, David and Avril Morris and Edith and Walter Cook.

At Ropery Hall the mix of music, theatre and comedy continues with highlights including actor Edward Fox in An Evening with Anthony Trollope and the return of the Scottish Falsetto Sock Puppet Theatre Company, both in March.

Other acts returning include Paul Jones and Dave Kelly, Snake Davis and Burden of Paradise and Henry Priestman along with Jazz supergroup Empirical and Dennis Rollins' Velocity. Full details of all exhibitions and workshops are online at [www.ropewalk.co.uk](http://www.ropewalk.co.uk) and Ropery Hall events at [www.roperyhall.co.uk](http://www.roperyhall.co.uk)

### **FROM THE REGISTERS:**

#### **BAPTISMS:-**

- Dec 14 Gabriella Coco LAING daughter of Sophie Leanne & Tristan Arthur LAING  
Dec 20 Xanthe Bethany BOWNESS daughter of Lesley Anne & Christiaan BOWNESS

#### **MARRIAGE:-**

- Dec 20 Christiaan BOWNESS & Lesley Anne MARSHALL

#### **FUNERALS:-**

- Dec 9 Margaret May WEBB  
Dec 15 Roger Gerald TROOP  
Dec 17 Mary Ellen CLAYTON  
Dec 18 Shirley Jane McCOMBIE  
Dec 22 Raymond Neale SMITHSON

Donations have been received for flowers in Church at Christmas in loving memory of:-

Frank Milner

Ethel Stockdale  
George Stockdale  
Ted and Ena Broughton  
Don Broughton  
Marjorie Radford  
Allan and Judy Manchester  
John Stanley  
Arthur and Ruth Winship  
Edna and John Bellamy  
Hugh McMahan  
Lucy Booty  
Roy McWilliam  
Derrick Gibson

Thank you for these donations and also those received from members of the congregation.

### **MOTHERS' UNION NOTES**

Our last meeting for December 2014 was an afternoon of carols and readings. We were joined by Ladies from Trinity Fellowship. Favourite carols were chosen and sung, interspersed by readings from different members of St Mary's and Trinity. Opening and closing prayers were said by Linda.

The afternoon finished with seasonal refreshments.

We begin 2015 with our Annual General Meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm. This is a VERY IMPORTANT AGM as the 3 main officers are retiring and if no one takes over the posts of Leader, Secretary and Treasurer sadly St Mary's branch of the Mothers Union will close. Please try to attend. BS

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Corporate Communion  
Jan 21<sup>st</sup> 2pm ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### **St. Mary's Bellringers**

The St Mary's bellringers wish all parishioners a very Happy New Year.

December is always a busy month for the ringers and this year included a wedding on the Saturday before Christmas. Ringing took place for all the key services.

The ringers enjoyed a delicious Christmas meal at Stables on 6th December. Family members joined us; many thanks go to Linda Howden for organising it.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January St. Mary's, Barton will be hosting the AGM of the Northern Branch of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bellringers. There will be general ringing in the afternoon followed by a service to be led by Rev. Ivan Howitt, a buffet tea and the business meeting. If anyone is interested to know more about ringing please do come and join us from 1400 onwards.

Joan Barton

### **Confirmation.**

The Deanery Confirmation is here at St Mary's this year, and is on the evening of March 11th. It'll be taken by Bishop Tim and will start at 7.00.

Young people generally need to be year 5/6 under the current diocesan guidelines, but there's certainly no upper age limit. Confirmation (and sometimes even baptism) is something which people can miss out on for one reason or another in early life, and so it's not just for young adults (cue for the old joke: Q: 'How do you rid a church of bats?' A: 'Confirm them and then you'll never see them again!')

To explore what this might mean for you if you've never been confirmed, please have a word with one of the clergy. We'll be starting suitable preparation sessions shortly.

### **Prayer Cards.**

We're very grateful to anonymous donors for some rather nice prayer cards which are intended to help people who are either struggling to pray or are just starting out and don't know where to begin. They are out and about around Church in various places, so do take one if you find it helpful, and just as important, pass them on to others.

### **The Bishop of Lincoln writes.....**

2015 is the Year of Discipleship – well, at least for us here in the Diocese of Lincoln!

I have chosen to make discipleship our focus this year because as we develop and deepen our discipleship, so we grow in our confidence as followers of Jesus Christ; and, as you know by now, I want us all to be faithful, confident and joyful disciples. I have already written to every parish in the diocese to share my hope that all of us will engage with the Year of Discipleship in some way, and everyone – either as an individual or as a church community – will take up at least one of the opportunities on offer.

Here are just some of the ways in which you might enter into our Year of Discipleship:

- Join in with one of the services or bible studies based around our values of faithful, confident and joyful if they are offered in your parish
- There are lots of courses available to help you think more deeply about your own discipleship, whether you're new to church or have been attending all your life. Why not think about having one of these at your church? The Church of England's new discipleship course, called Pilgrim, is an excellent place to start
- Look out for the Diocesan Lent course for 2015, Confident Discipleship, running near you. It is an excellent follow up to this year's 2014 Advent

course and gives us a further opportunity to reflect on our individual discipleship journeys

- Look out for more information on the 'discipleship days' being planned for various locations around the diocese this year
- Finally, keep your eye on Facebook and Twitter: the discipleship team will be using social media and keeping a blog through the Year of Discipleship. Remember, too, that there will be new resources and information coming on-stream all the time on our new-look website [www.lincoln.anglican.org](http://www.lincoln.anglican.org)

I pray that God will bless our endeavours in the year ahead as we seek to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ, and I am already looking forward to joining together with many of you at a diocesan service in Lincoln Cathedral towards the end of the year to celebrate God's blessings through the year. Keep an eye out for more details coming soon.

I wish you a happy and blessed new year.

Bishop Christopher

### **St Mary's Ladies' Group**

We were entertained this month by Octangle, a male voice octet from Louth who presented a varied and amusing programme. The first part was entitled Religion and Romance and included The Boar's Head Carol and songs by Thomas Tallis, Handel and Purcell. In the next part we were amused by All for me grog, Waltzing Matilda and I wish I was single again. Christmas was represented by Cantique de Noel and Hark the Herald Angels sing. The concert concluded with Silent Night, a praise to women, and an amusing account of using a sat-nav before being serenaded by Goodnight Ladies. The choir were thanked by Shân and we all enjoyed a light supper of mince pies and stollen.

GD

### **Wilderspin School Museum**

The Friends of Queen Street School gave valuable support to the restoration project in its early days. We have revived the Friends in order to keep supporters informed and to publicise events. The cost of postage precludes direct mail except in a few cases so we are encouraging Friends to maintain a link with us by opting for subsequent news of the School Museum by email. If you would like to be a Friend of the Museum email [friendsofwilderspin@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofwilderspin@gmail.com).

Tickets are now available for an evening with Hull and Hessle MP Alan Johnson on Friday 13th February. Based on his widely acclaimed autobiography *This Boy* this event will focus on Mr. Johnson's moving childhood memories and recollections of growing up and going to school in the slums of west London. The former home secretary and Labour MP has been awarded the Ondaatje prize for his childhood memoirs. This is an unusual literary award which goes to the book that best evokes the spirit of a place. Judge and poet Imtiaz Dharker said, "This Boy makes you walk the post-war streets with him, smell the sixpenny pie and mash, and hear the sound of the meter gobbling shillings in the condemned housing of Notting Hill".

Tickets are £12 and can be booked by telephone (01652) 635172 or by calling in at the Wilderspin School Museum. Proceeds from the event will help with further restoration of the School.

### **Barton Civic Society**

Our first talk in the 2015 programme is *The Medieval Stained Glass of Tattershall Church, Lincolnshire*. Gordon Plumb, a leading stained glass photographer, will speak about one of the most important glazing schemes in late Medieval England at the Collegiate Church of the Holy Trinity, Tattershall, Lincolnshire. The talk will take place on Friday 20th February at 7.30pm at the Assembly Rooms.

### **A Christmas Thank You from Toddler Time**

On Monday 15th December we held our Toddler Time Christmas party. After enjoying some playing time in the hall we moved into the church to begin our service around the Christmas tree.

Our Christmas story took us around the church finding Mary, Joseph, the donkey, shepherds and baby Jesus and ended with us all together around the tree singing "Away in a Manger". We then moved back into the hall to enjoy our Christmas party food (you can see the picture in the photograph pages!) and to play pass the parcel. It was a lovely morning sharing the message of Christmas and of God's love for us - sending such a special gift that first Christmas morning.

This year our party was funded by a donation given in memory of Geoff and Rosemary Lamert. Both played such a huge role working with children and young people in church: Rosemary with her tireless work with the C.C.A.A. and B.Y.A.A. awards schemes and who could forget Geoff's wonderful presentation of Michael Mouse among others!

Katherine and Alex wanted the donation to go towards children's work in the church. Hopefully in using it to fund our celebration of such a special time, we have continued their work to reach out, spread the word and celebrate God's love.

With our love and thanks, Michelle and Mavis. *[A big thank you also to Michelle and Mavis for so regularly and faithfully turning up on a Monday morning to do this very important work. Eds]*

<b>Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Jan</b>		<b>Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</b>	
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>		<b>Epiphany</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Evensong</b>
Mon 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	9.30 am		Deanery Chapter (Scawby)
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)
	10.15 am		Diary meeting (Vicarage)
	2.00 pm		Service at Beech House
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group
Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm		Service at Eagle House
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>		<b>Baptism of Christ</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Evening Prayer</b>
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	2.00 pm		Standing Committee (Vicarage)
	Home	Communion	Week
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	7.45 pm		In Depth Group (4a Caistor Road)
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Service at Westbridge House

	7.15 pm		Ministry Team (Vicarage)
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>		<b>Epiphany 2</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Sung Evensong</b>
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.00 pm		Said Eucharist
		<b>Parish</b>	<b>News Deadline</b>
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
	2.00 pm		Mothers' Union AGM
	7.30 pm		Ladies' Group meeting
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
	2.00 pm		Northern Branch Lincoln Bellringers AGM
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Jan</b>		<b>Conversion of Paul</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.30 am</b>		<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Toddler Time
	7.00 pm		Eucharist and PCC
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am		Said Eucharist
Sat 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am		Lectio Divina
<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb</b>		<b>Candlemas</b>	
	<b>8.00 am</b>		<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>		<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>		<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>		<b>Choral Evensong</b>



Toddler Time Christmas Party



Members of the congregation enjoying cake and coffee after Sunday 9.30 Eucharist



Auriol's birthday – she's not saying how many!

## *From the Diocese: What does the Bible say about Discipleship?*

### Part 1: Salt

#### Matthew 5: 13

***"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."***

There are many uses for salt. Food preservation, healing, de-icing roads, adding flavour in cooking - in fact we use salt in more than 14,000 different ways, including describing discipleship!!

Following an operation I was encouraged to soak my wound in salt water and this helped the healing process. Every winter the highways department travels our roads salting the roads to make our journeys safer with salt blessed by the Bishop of Lincoln and other clergy across Lincolnshire. Most common is the use of salt in food; if we add just the right amount of salt into food it can add brilliant flavour. Don't add enough and the food can still be bland, add too much and the salt can make the meal overpowering. But the right amount and you get a great meal!

But how do we ensure we retain our saltiness?

Through prayer; worshipping God with others; reading scripture; being missional and as witnesses in the world. All areas of discipleship! So, as disciples what can we learn? If we are the salt of the earth and if salt can be used in 14,000 different ways, consider how much more useful we can be to God and to others! Through deepening our own discipleship we can be salt of the earth - versatile and abundant! (Sodium Chloride commonly known as salt is one of the most abundant minerals on earth).

The challenge is that we need to be just the right amount of salt when we go out in to the world and be witnesses of Jesus Christ.

### Part 2: Follow Me...

#### Mark 1: 16-18

***"As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people. And immediately they left their nets and followed him."***

How did you hear Jesus call you to follow him? How has Jesus' call changed the way you live and the people you have met?

For the first disciples, answering Jesus' call to follow him meant leaving behind what was familiar and starting out on a very different life, it meant listening to him and doing what he did.

In these short verses we see that we follow Jesus when we:

- make connections with other people - Jesus made a strong connection with Simon, Peter and Andrew as he invited them to use their skills in a new way.
- see the bigger picture - Jesus got the first disciples to look up from their fishing nets and join in with God's work.
- trust God - Jesus' call to follow him shows that he will always be with us to guide us.

The key message about following Jesus is that we do so in the company of people who are different from ourselves. The first twelve disciples were a very mixed group. They included Matthew who was a tax collector, and John who is said to have written the fourth gospel. We don't know what the others did before they decided to follow Jesus, but we do know that none of them were perfect. They often misunderstood Jesus and got things wrong as they tried to follow him.

What was special about these first disciples was, with the exception of Judas, that they kept trying to follow him.

Jesus called Simon, Peter and Andrew to be part of a group. Discipleship is never an individual matter; it takes place within a community of very different people who are all trying to respond to Jesus' call. Being a disciple of Jesus means following him as part of a community in which people are called across all social barriers and where no one is excluded.

This is a new way of living, and when we persevere as we follow Jesus, we and our communities are transformed.



