

# St Guthlac's Church.



Reaching out in love,  
growing in faith,  
welcoming all.

February 2024 70p.



*In a Leap Year on 29<sup>th</sup> February women are 'allowed' to propose to their male partner, a tradition which is thought to have originated in 5<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland.*

*This image is of a postcard sent in 1910, quite possibly posted and received the same day! The postage was one (old) half-penny stamp,*



## The Rectory Tree

Poem by  
Joyce Kilmer,  
1886 - 1918

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.  
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;  
A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

Rector  
Rev'd Georgina Holding.

(01778) 342237.



[www.stguthlacs.org.uk](http://www.stguthlacs.org.uk)



St Guthlac's, Market Deeping.



For a Baptism, Wedding, or any general enquiry, please telephone the Parish Administrator Charlotte Bates who is available **Monday and Wednesday evenings** on 07972 839963. Beyond that time please leave a message. Alternatively email [administrator@stguthlacs.org.uk](mailto:administrator@stguthlacs.org.uk)

**Churchwardens**

Peter Hilton  
Keith Fowler

**Readers**

Canon Nigel Bacon  
Mrs Kate Brown

**Director of Music**

Peter Davies

**PCC** Vice Chair  
Hon Treasurer

James Ward  
Mrs Julie Bacon

**Youth Officer**

Andrew Mitchell

Other Parish Representatives are listed near the back of this publication.

The Daily Office of Morning Prayer is said at 9.00am Monday to Saturday. The Evening Prayer is at 5.00pm Monday to Friday. All are welcome.

For details of our on-line services please refer to our website or facebook page.

If previously arranged any Baptisms will take place at 12noon on the first or third Sunday of the month.



# *The View From The Rectory.*



*Dear Friends,*

The view from The Rectory is going to look quite different soon. I am sure you all know the large chestnut tree in the front garden. Well, the tree, as those who have lived in the areas for several years will likely know, dates back many years indeed and even pre-dates the building of The Rectory itself. It is my understanding, that before The Rectory was built, the land it is on belonged to a local farmer called John Eve. John was so fond of the tree that he requested it was kept when the land was built on, and there the tree has remained. Sadly, as some of you will likely have noticed, it is now over 50% dead, due to blight. Unfortunately this is a common problem for such trees at the moment and one it cannot recover from. It is quite worrying how many branches, of various sizes, regularly fall off the tree, even when the weather is not windy. As a result, the tree is having to be felled in its entirety.

The good news though, is that within 12 months of the tree being removed, a new tree will be planted in its place. This will be a similar tree, which over time will grow to a comparable height as the existing tree.

So, the view will change, out of necessity, from the significant tree, to it being removed, and finally to it being replaced with a new tree. While the tree has been wonderful over the years, it is a shame that at present it is not in a good state -It now does not offer much to the environment or wildlife, is not much to look at, causes issues of branches having to be cleaned off the ground regularly, and the worry of branches falling keeps people away from it. Given all this,

we can look forward to the new view, of a live, growing, flourishing tree.

It seems entirely appropriate that this is brought to our attention as we start Lent this month. Lent being a period we traditionally consider our lives and what we need to say sorry for and work on. Perhaps there are parts of our lives which need attending too, or even removing completely and starting again. It can be quite scary starting again, and the outlook can look quite empty or unsure for some time, before we get in place what we need, and start to re-grow, over time, until finally we are something far healthier than we were to begin with. It is the same as life and society move on, and the groups or organisations we are a part of too, including the church. However, sometimes it is necessary; necessary for re-growth for a healthy, flourishing future.

So, though like any change, it might feel strange and even a bit uncomfortable, I am really looking forward to the new tree being planted in time, and to looking at it to remind me of all this as it grows and develops in its own unique way over the years, a reminder of the past, and more sustainable for the future.

*With all best wishes*  
*Rev'd George.*

*Prayer for the month.*


God of love,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
give us insight to discern your will for us,  
to give up what harms us,  
and through your Son,  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen

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# Churchwardens' Notes.

We hope that you and your families are all well and managing to stay warm in the current cold weather. It always comes as a shock after a period of milder weather. Fortunately, our boiler has been repaired and so church is not too cold now. We are grateful to SmartHeat, our new contractor, for carrying out the repairs for us.

Our clock specialists, Time Assured, have now visited to look at the work required on the clock. They have identified the work that is required and we are currently waiting for them to provide a quotation for the work. We are grateful to Lyall who met the team onsite to provide access to the tower and background information on the issues we have experienced with the clock recently.

You may remember that we had been experiencing issues with our roof alarm. The repairs carried out have resolved these issues and we haven't had any further false alarms.

Unfortunately, we now have an issue with the Fire Alarm. One of the sensors, located in the bell chamber, is regularly going into fault mode. This is what causes the annoying bleep that you may have noticed during services. We are in contact with the Alarm company and hope to have the issue resolved in the very near future.

You will remember that Nigel had bravely changed the bulbs in the lights on the south side of the Nave. One of the units is still not working and we have contacted our electrician and asked them to visit to identify and resolve the issue.

We would like to finish this month's Notes by recording our thanks to the Town Council who kindly took our Christmas tree away. It would have been very difficult for us to do this as it was so big. The tree will have been chipped and the chips used as mulch by the Council's Grounds Team.

As ever, if you have any questions, please speak with one of us.

Pete Hilton    Keith Fowler



The December meeting went off as planned with a short service of readings, carols and prayers followed by social time. We played a seasonal version of Beetle (drawing reindeer rather than beetles) so watch out those of you who are coming to the Pancakes and Beetle drive on Shrove Tuesday; the Mothers' Union are in top form!! Naturally there was plenty of Christmassy

food on offer and we all went home with doggy bags. Members donated warm clothing which was given to the Salvation Army to distribute to those in need.

January's meeting has not taken place at the time of writing, but I have every confidence that the AGM will have passed off without incident and there will have been a smooth transfer of power from the 2023 committee to the 2024 one. A programme for the year was handed out with a mixture of speakers and in-house activities planned. As February can be a chancy month for weather and

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## The Deepings Flower Club

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Tuesday of each month  
in Priory Church Hall,  
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7.00 for 7.30pm.

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Visitors £8      Tea & Coffee.  
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Raffle of the Arrangements.

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01778 560 362.



illness we have waited until March to book our first speaker so February's meeting will be an in-house meeting on a Lenten theme. As always our meetings are open to everyone with no commitment required. All we ask is that you contribute £2 a meeting towards the cost of hiring the room.

Kate Brown [kabstg@btinternet.com](mailto:kabstg@btinternet.com) 01778343981.

## *Ladies' Guild.*

From Jean Jones

**O**ur December meeting was very lively when we were entertained by Andy and Jules with the addition of two new members to their team – Brian on guitar and Fran on violin (photos inside the back cover). As it was Fran's birthday we also sang to her. With the usual jokes from Andy and six prizes to be won by the members we had an enjoyable evening. After a break halfway for refreshments we were then involved in some more singing of popular Christmas Carols.

In January we will go to The Horseshoe at Thurlby to enjoy our annual post-Christmas meal and our next meeting will be on February 27th when David Bond will give a talk on South Kesteven Villages.

A note for your diary is **The Ladies Guild Quiz** which is back by popular demand on **10th February in the Green School 7.00 for 7.30** start and including a ploughman's supper – you are invited to bring your own drinks and nibbles. Henry Roberts is as our amiable quiz master. So please book a team or join a team by speaking to Julie Bacon on 01778 342737.

Julie Bacon 342737, Heather Dawson 346574, Gwen Didlick 347883, Jean Jones 07976 810654, Ann Lymburn 703269, Liz Parkinson 347020, Kay Roberts 349021

# St Guthlac's Eco Church

from Rob Gray

Now, before I lay down my piece about H<sub>2</sub>O, I am wondering whether others in the "past the half-century club" have observed something I have: That those a little younger don't always have the same literary references as we oldies do. For example, the more mature among you will probably complete the title of this piece with "nor any drop to drink". The extremely educated or well-read may also know that it is taken from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by Samuel Taylor Coleridge. So, if you are under fifty, and you knew all of this, give yourself a pat on the back and please accept my ageist apologies. If you didn't, then maybe put down your phone and pick up a book (I tease!)

The actual reason for my title is that this article is on the theme of how water can cause huge problems when in excess AND when in short supply. Our planet is mostly covered by oceans of water, and numerous countries experience devastating floods on a regular basis. Many people in our own country have suffered the terrible turmoil of a flooded home. Yet other parts of the world are often in drought with insufficient water for their families or for the livestock they depend on.

It is now well documented that the levels of carbon dioxide and other gases in the earth's atmosphere are contributing to changes in the world's climate. There is growing evidence that we in the UK are seeing changes in our weather and there is an expectation that floods are likely to be an increasing problem for us. I recently took some pictures of the flooded Severn Valley, where Britain's longest river is joined by the river Vyrnwy. But we should put our problems into perspective when we hear about situations faced by some other countries, because of climate change.

We all know how wonderful a substance water is. If we take a moment to consider the myriad of uses that we have for water in our everyday lives, we realise how essential it is. In fact, it really is essential. Life on earth is only possible because we have water. When scientists look for the possibility of life, existing or past, on other planets, they look for the presence or evidence of water. This is on the basis that life, as we know it, needs water.

# Water, water, everywhere...!

Beyond the fact that water is essential for our existence, it is also extremely useful in many ways like washing and cleaning, industry and commerce, exercise and fun. We don't like being rained on, but when the sun comes out, we often race to be by, or in, water. It can cool us and heat us, enables transport and, very importantly, is used in the making of beer!

There is an abundance of water on our planet, but it isn't always where we humans want it to be or may not be in the state we need. Like the Ancient Mariner, we can be surrounded by it, but still be thirsty. In the UK, we bathe in, and flush our toilets with, water that is safe to drink, whereas in other countries, they might not have a water network like ours, and depend on rivers and wells instead. Our water is treated to kill anything dangerous to our health, but people depending on natural water sources will often have to take risks.

Whilst water has almost infinite uses for humans, our primary need is to drink. And whilst we experience various water-related problems and challenges, we simply cannot survive without SAFE drinking water. You may be aware of the charity Water Aid, which works to help people with their basic water needs. Our church has supported Water Aid for some time, thanks largely to someone whom I won't embarrass by mentioning her name here. But you know who you are, Dorothy.

Water Aid is "...determined to make clean water, decent toilets, and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere within a generation. Since 1981, we've directly reached 28 million people with clean water; 28 million with decent toilets; and 26 million with good hygiene. We work closely with partners internationally and on the ground in some of the toughest places in the world, to help achieve widespread change. Millions of people have already taken control of their lives and built better futures"

So, the next time you're luxuriating in the bath, swimming a length of the pool, or enjoying a good pint of ale, think about those who are hoping and praying to have their basic water needs met. Then head out to buy some sandbags, just in case!


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# Flowers & Friday Crafting

from Anne Guthrie.

We are pleased to welcome some new members to the FlowerTeam, however there are still a few blank weeks if any of you can assist. Some of the team have very kindly offered to do more than one session of Flower arranging.

The Christmas flowers lasted into Epiphany and then Kate covered the end of January. She thought that a bowl of spring plants or bulbs would make a fresh pedestal display , plus some of the church snowdrops for Candlemass and an arrangement in memory of her mother above the Memorial Book.

The season of Lent begins in February and this means that there will be several weeks with no flowers as we reflect on God's Love and make space to read the bible , study and reflect on our own lives as we prepare for Easter.

We resumed our Crafting sessions in January with ideas for recycling our old Christmas cards, as it is always sad to have to throw the beautiful pictures away. Kate had created some lovely new cards and we enjoyed ourselves so much that the second session was also on recycling. This term there will also be several sessions on flower arrangements led by Ann – Marie. Please come and join us for good company, interesting ideas and refreshments . If you are interested in the Flower sessions, please let us know as there will be a limit of 15 places each week for those sessions and they will cost £10 – per session.

Friday Crafting & Flowers in the Green School 9.30 - 11.30; £5 towards the hire of the hall and refreshments.

- 9 February Valentine/Heart crafts
- 23 February Flowers: Line arrangement
- 8 March Flowers: All Round arrangement
- 22 March Flowers: Easter Wreath ring
- 19 April
- 3 May Flowers
- 17 May Flowers
- 31 May Craft Eve Marshall - felted landscape
- 14 June Crafting with buttons
- 28 June
- 12 July Last Session - trip?





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# Sunday Evenings in Lent

Following our well-established practice we will be suspending our fortnightly evensong services during Lent, replacing them with a weekly address/study session followed by a service of Compline, an old monastic office that marks the end of the day.

This year we will be looking at the Pastoral Epistles so each session will take the form of a Bible Study. We do have plenty of Bibles in church (as you would expect) but you may prefer to bring your own. We don't all have to read from the same version, and it can be helpful to have several different versions to compare. The sessions will be stand alone so if you can attend as many or as few as you can make. Whoever is leading the session will choose a few passages to focus on, but you are, of course, welcome to read the whole epistle ahead of time.

- Sunday February 18th 5:00 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy
- Sunday February 25th 5:00 Titus
- Sunday March 3rd 5:00 Philemon
- Sunday March 10th 5:00 James
- Sunday March 17th 5:00 1 Peter and 2 Peter
- Sunday March 24th 5:00 1 John, 2 John and 3 John

## Talk at Teatime

from Kate Brown

January's talk was well attended and well received. We listened to former Prime Minister Gordon Brown talk about "A country where poverty does not exist". Disappointingly he was much stronger on articulating the issues than proposing remedies but that gave us more scope when it came to our discussion which was lively.

In February we will be listening to a favourite speaker, John Bell whose title is "Incarnation – the great denial" The Apostle's Creed manages to squeeze 33 years of Jesus' life into a comma separating the Virgin Mary from Pontius Pilate. Come and hear John talk about that missing life.

John describes himself as a fearless technophobe, potato whisperer and long standing member of the Iona Community and Wild Goose Resource Group.

If you haven't been to one of these recorded talks before, do drop in if the topic is one that interests you. We enjoy the discussions that follow the talk which often last longer than the talk itself and it's an opportunity to have conversations on deeper levels than we often manage in the few moments before and after services.

## Greenbelt 2024

from Anne Guthrie & Kate Brown.

If you look back at your October copy of the magazine you will find the report that Anne wrote on our visit to the Greenbelt Festival. Often it has just been the two of us from our parish that have attended but last year we were joined by some more from our congregation and I know both George and Andrew are hoping to attend in 2024, possibly bringing a church group. There are activities there to suit every age group, churchmanship, degree of mobility and interest. It is a place to come and be informed, challenged, refreshed and revitalised.



Have a word with one of us if you are interested, look at the display at the back of church, or check out the website,

[www.greenbelt.org.uk](http://www.greenbelt.org.uk)

Weekend ticket prices for 2024 are £202 (£75 for under 18s) if you buy before the end of April rising to £226 /£85 if you leave it until the last minute. Day tickets will be available from May. In the meantime, put Thursday August 22nd to Sunday August 25th in your diary even if it is just in pencil!



## St Peter's Singers Concert on Saturday March 9th at 7:30pm in St Guthlac's Church "Hear my Prayer"

St Peter's singers are a mixed chamber choir of about 25 voices who have a wide repertoire of music spanning 8 centuries. Their conductor, Jeremy Jepson, is a former musical director at both St Guthlac's and our neighbours the Priory Church. Currently he directs Stamford Choral Society as well as St Peter's Singers.

This concert will feature both choral and organ music. Tickets will be on sale soon priced at £12 adults and £5 children. Book your tickets early for what promises to be a real treat.

## The Magazine.

Thank you to all who contributed this month. Articles for the February issue are required please not later than Wednesday 21st February.

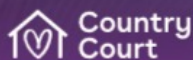
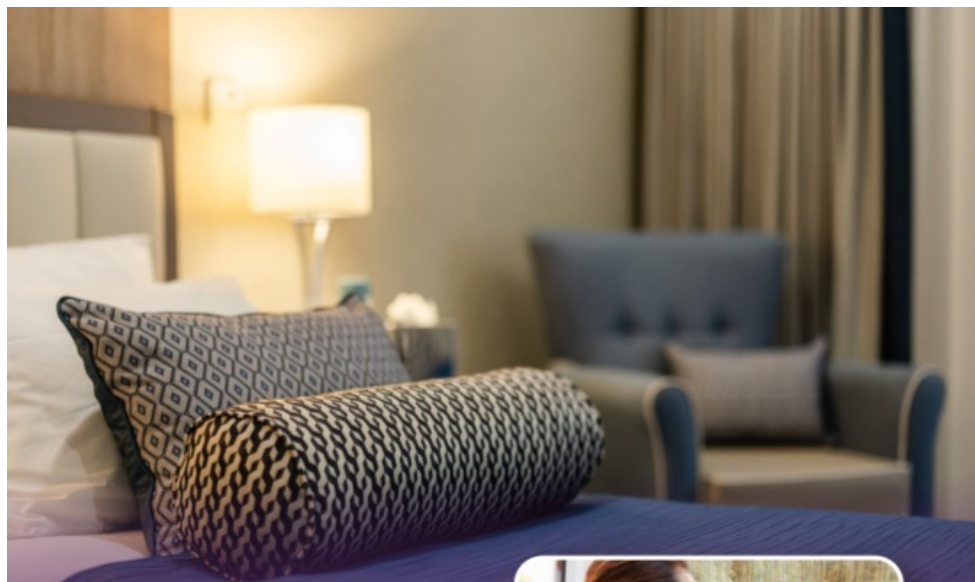
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### *Chuckle With Charlie;*

My therapist told me I have problems expressing my emotions. I can't say I'm surprised.

My boss asked me why I only get sick on work days. I said it was probably down to my weekend immune system.





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# Parish Directory

Secretary of Bell Ringers	Dawn Richie	078
Eco Church Coordinator	Mrs Liz Gray	
Guthlac's Young Explorers	Mrs Susanne Denton	
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Anne Guthrie	
Wellbeing Group Co-ord	Mr Keith Warren	
Friends of St Guthlac	Rev'd George Holding	
Stewardship Coordinator	Mrs Carol Cooper	
Convener of Sidespeople	Mr Keith Warren	
Coordinator of Servers	Mr Graeme Bacon	
Lesson Reading Rota	Mrs Kate Brown	
Flower Arranging Rota	Mrs Anne Guthrie	
Church Cleaning Rota	Mrs Kay Roberts	
Newsletter	Mrs Dorothy Harriss	
	Mrs Kay Roberts	
Mothers' Union	Mrs Kate Brown	
Ladies Guild	Mrs Kay Roberts	
Floodlight Booking	Mrs Kay Roberts	
Green School Caretaker	Mrs Chris Gaughan	079
Magazine Distribution	Mrs Dorothy Harriss	
Advertising	Mr Roger Clarke	079
Production	Gordon Tyler	
	gordonftyler@btint	

## Future Events;

- Friday 1st March World Day of Prayer 2:30 pm at the Roman Catholic Church
- Saturday 2nd March 12:00 noon Lent Lunch in the Green School
- Saturday 9th March 7:30 pm St Peter's Singers Concert in the Church
- Sunday 17th March Fair Trade Stall after 10:00 service tbc
- Friday 29th March 10:00 am Easter activities & craft session.

# February calendar of services and activities, Year B.

Thurs 1st 7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice  
 Fri 2nd 6.30pm Choir Practice  
 Sat 3rd 10:00 – 12:00 Jazz Breakfast in the Green School

## Sunday 4th

8:00 am Said Holy Communion  
 9:45 am Young Explorers in the Green School  
 10:00 am Parish Holy Communion  
 Colossians 1: 15 – 20, John 1: 1 - 14  
 4:00 pm Talk at Teatime venue tbc

Mon 5th

10:00 am Prayer Meeting in church

Wed 7th

10:30 am Said Holy Communion

Thu 8th

7:30 pm Bell Ringing Practice

Fri 9th

9:30 – 11:30 Craft in the Green School

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Sat 10th

10:30 am Coffee Morning in the Green School

7:30 pm Ladies' Guild Quiz in the Green School

## Sunday 11th

8:00 am Said Holy Communion  
 No Young Explorers (Half Term)

10:00 am Parish Holy Communion  
 2 Corinthians 4: 3 – 6, Mark 9: 2 – 9

5:00 pm Evensong  
 1 Kings 19: 1 – 16, 2 Peter 1: 16 – end

Tues 13th

6:30 pm Pancakes and Beetle Drive in the Green School

## Wed 14th

10:30 am Said Holy Communion

7:30 pm Holy Communion with Ashing

Thur 15th

6:30 pm Mothers' Union in the Green School

7:30pm Bell Ringing Practice

Fri 16th

No Choir Practice (Half Term)

## Sunday 18th

8:00 am Holy Communion

## Second Sunday before Lent

## Sunday Next before Lent: Racial Justice Sunday

## Ash Wednesday

## First Sunday of Lent

No Young Explorers (Half Term)

10:00 am Parish Holy Communion  
1 Peter 3: 18 – end, Mark 1: 9 - 15  
5:00 pm Compline with Bible Study on  
1 and 2 Timothy

Wed 21st 10:30 am Said Holy Communion  
Thu 22nd 7:30 pm Bell Ringing Practice  
Fri 23rd 9:30 – 11:30 Craft in the Green School  
6:30 pm Choir Practice  
Sat 24th No Soup and Social in the Green School  
(postponed to March 3rd)

**Sunday 25th**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

8:00 am Said Holy Communion  
10:00 am All Age Holy Communion  
Romans 4: 13 – end, Mark 8: 31 - end  
5:00 pm Compline with Bible Study on Titus

Tue 27th 7:30 pm Ladies' Guild in the Green School  
Wed 28th 10:30 am Said Holy Communion  
2:30 pm Rose Lodge  
Thur 29th 7:30 pm Bell Ringing Practice

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## Duty Roster

when	sidespeople	reader	servers
4 Feb			
8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
10.00am	Joy Elliman Roger Clarke Di Wheatley	James Ward	G Bacon L Ward L Oaton
11 Feb			
8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
10.00am	Henry Roberts Kay Roberts Chris Warren	Daniel Fowler	N Bacon D Fowler E Denton
5.00pm		Donald Monk	
14 Feb			
7.30pm			A Gray J Johnson C Gaughan
18 Feb			
8.00am	Kevin Dawson	Kevin Dawson	
10.00am	Janis Hewitt, Lyall Seale, Keith Warren	Keith Fowler	G Bacon J Howell J Johnson
25 Feb			
8.00am	Jean Jones	Jean Jones	
10.00am	Carol Cooper Lorna Mellowes Geoff Chambers Nick Evans	A Child	G Edwards C Gaughan L Oaton

sacristan

Dorothy Harriss,  
Iris Newson

Janice Hewitt  
Kay Bunn



Pictures from the Ladies' Guild December meeting.

Entertainment by Andy, Jules, Brian and Fran.

Nellie Mitchell  
Linda Bates



Lyall Seale  
Geoff Chambers





# St Guthlac's Ladies Guild

We are back with  
our popular

## FUN QUIZ

Saturday 10th February 2024  
7.30pm

Teams of 6 - £8 per person  
Green School, Church Street,  
Market Deeping

Ploughman's Supper Provided  
(Bring own drinks and nibbles)

Ring Julie 342737 to book your team or  
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