St Guthlac's Church.

January 2024 70p.

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





The 'Churches Together' stall at the Christmas Market.

38



HAR .

Pictures on the cover are of the Ladies' Guild Craft event in November, and here are some examples.





Rector Rev'd Georgina Holding.

(01778) 342237.



www.stguthlacs.org.uk

f St Guthlac's, Market Deeping.



For a Baptism, Wedding, or any general enguiry, please telephone the Parish Administrator Charlotte Bates who is available Mondav and Wednesdav evenings on 07972 839963. Beyond that time please leave a message. administrator@stguthlacs.org.uk Alternatively email

Churchwardens	Mr Peter Hilton Mr Keith Fowler	
Readers	Canon Nigel Bacon Mrs Kate Brown	
Director of Music	Mr Peter Davies	
PCC Vice Chair Hon Treasurer	Mr 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 Víew From The Rectory.



Dear Fríends,

Happy New Year! As we move into New Year, many people make new year's resolutions or plans for the coming year. The idea of a fresh start is appealing to many. However, we rarely really start these things totally fresh. After all we are not a blank page; We are more like a book. Each one of us are all the experiences, thoughts and feelings which make us who we are. We are all the memories we have lived through, all the challenges overcome, and all the skills, knowledge and character which makes us, well us. I find this helpful. To start from a totally blank page can be really quite daunting for many. So, when wondering where to start when thinking about any new year's resolutions or plans, it is often a good idea to remember all this and to look back as the previous year or years, reflecting on the items we wanted to do but somehow never had the time, the things we did, or did not, achieve, the parts we enjoyed and the parts we did not, and so on.

A new year can be a chance to think about where we are and to consider where we would like to be. It can be a time to reflect on what we would like to change spiritually, emotionally, or physically in our lives. We might not all want to start jogging, learn a new skill or begin meditating daily; But, we could all do with doing something positive for our physical, emotional and spiritual health, whether it is something new or continuing what you already do. As well as remembering the new year, in January the Church continues our celebration of Christmas with Epiphany - The wise men visiting the young Jesus. The wise men also remind us of what new year can be about. They travelled a long way, keeping themselves physically active. They went with others rather than alone, keeping their emotional wellbeing in check. They went to see Jesus, journeying nearer to God, actively doing something spiritual. As well as this, they took gifts to Jesus. Each taking what they could, what was relevant and unique to them, and they offered it to God, in worship and praise. Then they returned to their lives, full of joy and wonder, and we imagine telling others about the amazing adventure they had been on.

So this year, as well as reflecting on what you can do to maintain and enhance your spiritual, emotional and physical welfare, why not also think about what you could offer to God (maybe through prayer, time or in some practical way), and how you might share how good it is to be close to God with others.

With all best wishes and prayers for a wonderful new year, Rev'd George

Prayer for the Month. Creator of the heavens, who led the Magi by a star to worship the Christ-child: quide and sustain us, that we may find our journey's end in Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

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Churchwardens' Notes.

We hope that you and your families are all well and that you all had a super Christmas. Hopefully, you had the chance for some rest and to catchup with families and friends.

The church looked fantastic and our thanks go to everyone who helped with flowers, the crib, decorating the windows and the tree. The tree is very generously donated by Tallington Farm. We are very grateful to them for their generosity.

We also need to thank everyone who helped make our services run smoothly. It is always a busy time for the Ministry Team, Peter and the choir and the sidespeople.

Unfortunately, the clock has stopped working again. This time the problem is going to require the attention of clock specialists. We have contacted a company called Time Assured who have worked on the clock previously and are waiting to hear when they will be able to come and assess the work required, We are grateful to Nigel who has been liaising with them.

Since our last Notes we have experienced some issues with the Roof Alarm. This caused several false activations (mainly at night, these things rarely happen during the day!). The activations were caused by a faulty sensor which has now been replaced.

Hopefully, you will have noticed that the lights in the Nave are now, except for one unit, working again. The bulbs in all three units have been replaced but unfortunately, the middle unit is still not working. We will be contacting our electrician to come and investigate. Thanks again to Nigel for being brave enough to climb up and change the bulbs; not a job for the faint hearted.

As we have mentioned previously one of our two boilers has not been working which meant the system struggled to reach full temperature. As these Notes are being written we are expecting our heating contractor to visit and carry out the necessary repairs.

As ever, if you have any questions, please speak with one of us. Pete Hilton Keith Fowler

Jazz Breakfast 2024

from Kate Brown.

The Jazz Breakfast has become a firm favourite in our social calendar. This year it will take place on Saturday February 3rd from 10:00 am in the Green School and tickets are now available from Kate Brown and Julie Bacon. We have had to increase the adult ticket to £12 for adults (our first increase since 2019) but have kept the child ticket at £3

If you haven't attended one of these before then get your ticket early. We serve a continental breakfast of orange juice, yoghurt with berries, ham and cheese roll, croissant and jam with unlimited coffee or tea. While you enjoy this you can listen to music provided by the Deeping Dixielanders and their singer Helen. This is a blend of easy listening jazz, swing and well known songs that will set your feet and fingers tapping. It appeals to all ages from toddlers to totterers and last year we even had some who were moved to get up and dance.



The Deepings Flower Club

We meet on the Third Tuesday of each month. in Priory Church Hall, Deeping St James. 7.00 for 7.30pm

Membership £30 pa, Visitors £6 Tea & Coffee Raffle of Flower Arrangements We look forward to welcoming New Members.

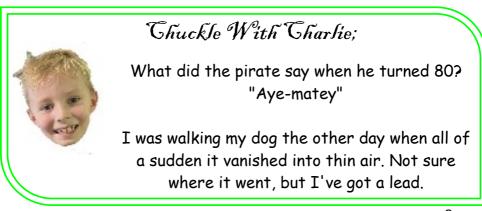
Enquiries to Sue Lee 01778 560362

Social Events in 2024

What's on in 2024?

Well that's up to you, what social/fundraising events do you want to see in 2024? We do have a few things in the diary, a book and jigsaw sale on January 20th, the Jazz Breakfast on February 3rd, a Ladies' Guild guiz on February 10th, a concert by the St Peter's Singers on March 9th, to say nothing of the Garden Fete, but it would be helpful to have an outline calendar for the rest of the year. Do you have ideas for events? Are you willing to be part of a bank of volunteers that can be called on to make or serve refreshments, sell tickets in church or in other groups you are part of? Do you have useful stuff you could lend for specific events eg gazebos for the Garden Fete? Do you have ideas about attracting more people to attend our events as the attendance at some of them in 2023 has been disappointing? Would you (and I hesitate to ask this) be prepared to be part of the Social Committee? If the answer to any of these questions is anything other than an outright no, please come to an open meeting in church on Thursday January 11th at 7:30pm when we hope to have a brainstorming session to revitalise our social calendar.

Our thanks go to people who have generously given raffle prizes throughout the year as raffles are a major part of the fundraising element of social events and also to those who have supported the events that have been put on in 2023. Kate Brown and the social committee.



Happy New Year to

everybody from the Ladies' Guild.

from Kay Roberts.

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

For our November meeting a cheerful and convivial evening of making Christmas trees using old paperback books was held with Jean Jones guiding us with instruction on how to craft a Christmas tree. Jean kindly also brought with her some ribbons and Christmas decorations which the ladies could use to decorate their trees if they wanted to. The ladies completed their trees and some even had time to add their chosen decorations. Thanks go to Jean for organising everything, and to Heather for acting as official photographer.

Since our December meeting occurs after publication of the magazine we will hear more of that next time. Meanwhile, for this month we look forward to our post-Christmas meal at The Horseshoe, Thurlby and then on February10th we will once more hold one of our Fun Quizzes in the Green School with Quizmaster Henry Roberts. Booking essential as the number of participants grows! Contact Julie Bacon, tel 01778 342737, to book a table for a team or to sign yourself up for a place.



The programme for 2024 is more or less settled now so make sure you are at our January meeting on Thursday 18th if you want to know what has been planned for the coming year. We hope to have a mix of speakers, mostly during the spring and autumn months, and in-house activities which are more reflective and prayerful in nature. There are also

cluster and diocesan events planned and we are always welcome at local branches for their monthly meetings as they are at ours.

The January meeting will start with a service in church at 6:30 followed by our AGM in the Green School. Subs of £32 are due at this meeting for those who have not signed a direct debit form and they will go directly to the diocese rather than through our account so any cheques should be made payable to LDMU please. I should emphasise that you do not need to sign up to the Mothers' Union to attend any or all of our meetings and activities. The subscription goes mostly to the national organisation who fund a lot of educational and social programmes overseas. The rest goes to Lincoln Diocese and supports the administration costs: postage, printing, room hire, etc that enable our volunteers to perform their various roles. In our local branch the £2 per meeting that members donate pays for the hire of the Green School and any expenses our speakers have.

Kate Brown 01778 343981 kabstg@btinternet.com

Talk at Teatime

from Kate Brown

We will start 2024 by listening to Gordon Brown, former Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister and current UN Special Envoy for Global Education, who took as his title "A country where poverty does not exist"

"Poverty in the UK is an avoidable, solvable problem — but it's one we have failed to fix for far too long. As a society we must do better. Gordon Brown talks about our moral duty not to walk by on the other side when people are in poverty; how we can implement our ethical responsibilities to address rising poverty in our midst; and what might be a way forward."



This is certainly an important topic and one that should resonate with all Christians. The talk will take place at Kate's home 17 St Guthlac Avenue at 4 pm on Sunday January 7th and all are welcome, especially if you have not previously attended one of these talks recorded at the 2023 Greenbelt Festival.

Who's sticking around for Winter?

from Rob Gray.

There are several birds that I see almost daily in my garden: Sparrows, blackbirds, a robin, to name a few. But, now and again, I spot one visitor that I see less frequently. Perhaps if I didn't have double-glazing, I would be more aware of this noisy character.

It's always a treat when I notice this small bird. Partly because I see it less often, but also because I think it is particularly beautiful. Wrens are a passerine (perching) bird, with over 40 species worldwide. (The name "wren" is also ascribed to other families of passerine birds throughout the world.) For such a small bird, it has a remarkably loud voice. In fact, per unit weight, it sings at ten times the power of a crowing cockerel!

They can be inconspicuous, but their shape and size help us to identify them: Almost round in shape with a fine bill, quite long legs and toes, very short, round wings, and a short, narrow tail, which is sometimes stuck up vertically. Wrens' primary diet is insects, spiders, and other small invertebrates. They find their food while hopping and dashing along the ground and probing in crevices with their long thin bill. Their scientific name, *Troglodytes*, means "cave dweller" in reference to this behaviour or to their delicately constructed nests which have only a small opening.

The bird we know as a wren is the Winter or European wren, the only species of wren found outside the Americas, and present across most of the northern hemisphere. It's the most common UK breeding bird, with around 8.5 million breeding pairs! It can suffer declines during prolonged, severely cold winters, but the species' high egg productivity means that numbers usually recover after a few years. Wrens will use open-fronted and tit nest boxes for nesting and winter roosting (up to 60 have been recorded in one box).

European wrens are polygamous (males will mate with several females) and most are strongly territorial, at least during the breeding season. Males will construct many nests often 6-12 which the females will choose and then line with moss, leaves or feathers. The wren lays between one and nine eggs which only the female incubates, though both adults will feed the young chicks.

In Europe, Kinglets are commonly known as "wrens", although they are their own family. Kinglets the Firecrest and Goldcrest are often known as the "Fire-crested wren" and "Golden-crested wren", respectively. An adult wren weighs about the same as a $\pounds 1$ coin, being the lightest bird found in Britain except for kinglets, the goldcrest being the lightest. The mute swan, the UK's heaviest wild bird, weighs more than 2,000 goldcrests combined.

Wrens were first recorded in Anglo-Saxon times though there is fossil evidence from the last Ice age, 10-120,000 years ago. European wrens are both sedentary (as in Britain) but will be migratory in parts of Europe, flying anything up to 2500 km (1500 miles) with some migrating all the way from Scandinavia down to Spain.

The name Wren derives from various old European names and wrens are associated with several old fables. When the birds wanted to decide which one was king, they decided that the one who could fly highest would have the crown. An eagle flew very high and thought he had won, until from its back a wren (the smallest bird) took off and few even higher. There is some confusion over the wren being the King of the Fence in modern German and Kinglet in old German, yet the kinglets have a crest (crown) on their head and aren't really wrens at all.

Liz and I were fortunate to see a goldcrest in the hedge right beside us when we sat at the level crossing beyond West Deeping, this Summer. The UK has a large population of breeding goldcrests that stay here all year round. However, the population is often boosted in winter by individuals that migrate from Scandinavia. Historically, sailors in the North Sea often spotted migrating goldcrests resting on boats.

Goldcrests can be found across the UK. They favour coniferous and mixed woodland but can also be found in gardens and parks with large trees. The goldcrest is not of conservation concern, with an estimated breeding population of more than 600,000 birds. However, it is vulnerable to habitat loss caused by woodland destruction and the felling of trees.

I collated these facts from RSPB and Woodland Trust sources on the internet.

New Year, New Beginnings, New Resolutions.....?

I'm sure you have lots to do on a Friday evening but, if by some chance you have an hour or so spare, how about trying out singing in a choir practice (6.30-7.30 or 6.15-7.15 for youngsters)? So many people tell me that they 'can't sing' because others have told them so (sometimes music teachers when they were at school and they've believed it ever since). It's just NOT TRUE! If you can speak, you can sing. Simple! Only a tiny minority of folk (about 4%) on this planet have a genetic fault (called *congenital amusia*) which stops them being able to recognise and sing in tune. For everyone else, it's all about practice and getting used to what it feels like. What you sound like is for me to work on, not for you to worry about!

I'm thinking of forming a choir call the 'Can't Sings', so many folk have told me! It's really about embarrassment at the thought of failure or what you think others might think of your voice. The church choir is made up of great singers. BUT we all are learning as we go. Some, new to the choir are finding very good voices they didn't even know they had. Others, of course, have been singing for years but are still learning. A church choir is, simply, a complete mix of abilities and skills. We all learn as we go (me too)!

What do we need? Folk who want to learn, folk who want to develop their voice, folk who may well have been told years ago that they can't sing. That was really about music teachers not understanding or being able to cope with changing voices (male and female as puberty took hold). Over the many years I've worked with church choirs, I've been delighted to welcome youngsters and more mature members who 'cannot sing in tune' (sometimes literally), only for me and they to be delighted about 18 months later when they've sung solos! Now, I'm not asking for solo voices, nor am I suggesting that any or every choir member might sing a solo. That doesn't happen now so won't in the future either. It's just an observation that I've been delighted to note having worked with them individually and helped them understand and develop things like their breathing, sound production, note recognition, etc. And, it's not about learning to read music either though there's no doubt that it helps you learn faster.

The last bit of the jigsaw is commitment. None of us can commit to singing every Sunday. Family life, holidays and visits all take us away. However, if you can be regular at choir practice you'll be surprised how fast you can learn. If you've any doubt about any part of being a choir member, why not give me a ring on **01778 347381** (Mob. 07779 780021) and have a chat. I'll happily work with you on a one to one basis if you feel you want that support before trying out a choir practice. And no, we won't 'do' scales or any other music exercise. We'll just sing together any tune that you know and work on that. Tea for two...? Why ever not!

Peter Davies, Director of Music.

Church Flowers

From Anne Guthrie.

We hope that you appreciated the hard work that people had put into the Christmas flower displays. We had fun working together with Christmas music and mince pies, getting church ready for the Carol service weekend. Thank you to all the Friday crafters and Flower team for another year of service.

Please consider how you can help to make our church beautiful in supporting the Flower Team – financially or with offering to cover a couple of Sundays during the year. If you wish to remember a loved one's birthday, anniversary or death by having flowers in church, please contact me. We also enjoy helping with wedding celebrations.

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Friday Crafting

from Anne Guthrie and Kate Brown.

We have enjoyed another term of various card making techniques, felting a Father Christmas, making a ribbon Christmas tree and finally helping to decorate the church for Christmas (photos inside the front cover).

The plan for next term hasn't been fully decided but we hope to include a short floristry course over several weeks. More information to follow. We would also encourage anyone who would like to share their skills to contact Kate or myself and then come along to demonstrate.

New term begins on Friday 12th January , 9.30 to 11.30 in The Green School. Cost \pounds 5- towards hire and refreshments. Please come and join us.

The Magazine.

You will (I hope) have noticed that the magazine price is now 70p. You can prepay for the year, £7 for the eleven issues; simply put that amount in an envelope which is marked "Magazine" and your name (and address if necessary), and post in the wall safe.



Thank you to all who contributed this month, particularly the photographs. Articles for the February issue are required please not later than Wednesday 17th January.

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Wine Tasting

Christmas came early to the Green School last month, or at least the liquid element of it. Following on from the popular wine

tasting evening of June, we had similar event with a Christmas theme. Nigel Bacon had chosen 8 wines that he would recommend to complement the various courses of a traditional Christmas dinner, and these were enthusiastically sampled by those present.

We started with a couple of sparkling wines suitable for an aperitif before moving on to a couple of whites that would go with a starter. We followed these with a pair of red wines that would go with a main course and finished the evening with two sweet wines, one red and one white that would accompany a pudding. Nigel talked us through information about the geographical origins and the characteristics of each of the wines and wisely provided written notes as a back up for those who were too busy chatting to listen attentively!

I again provided a quiz with a round between each pair of wines. It slowed us down and gave those present something to discuss or even argue about while Nigel poured out the next round of wines. At the end of the evening Nigel asked us to choose which had been our favourite wine and this proved challenging; recalling anything at that stage of the evening would have been difficult but with something as ephemeral as a taste it was even harder.

Nevertheless, an overall decision was arrived at, and Nigel donated a bottle of the favourite to the raffle. Many thanks go to Nigel for his generosity and for his expertise during the evening.

Look out for another wine-tasting event in early summer and let us know if a beer-tasting event would be popular.





Book and Jigsaw Sale

It's the time of year when sitting out on the patio, doing some gentle gardening or going for a nice drive in the countryside are frankly uninviting ways of spending time and there is a limit to the number of brisk walks you can take in the few hours of daylight we get. What you need is a wholesome indoor activity you can accomplish wearing your slippers and with a steaming cup of tea to hand. What you need to do is come along to the book and jigsaw sale in the Green School between 10:00 and 12:00 on Saturday January 20th with a very large bag (or preferably two) and supply yourself with some reading and puzzles to while away the winter hours.

You would be doing yourselves a favour and us. Unless you have been inside the Green School shed recently, you can have no idea how many books and puzzles we have amassed since the Garden Fete and we could do with slimming down our stocks. Of course, we always welcome fresh stocks so if you have anything to donate, please leave it at the back of church. If you have any sturdy plastic bags that are surplus to requirements they could be left as well.

After the sale any hardback books left will be donated to a charity shop along with some of the paperbacks and jigsaws that have been circulating for a year or two.

Do tell all your friends and neighbours to come along and come yourselves.



In 30 seconds, what is the longest word you can make from these letters?





Spot the ten differences between these two pictures.





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Mrs Kate Brown

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Mothers' Union Mrs Kate Brown Ladies Guild Mrs Kav Roberts Floodlight Booking Mrs Kay Roberts Green School Caretaker Mrs Chris Gaughan 079 Distribution Mrs Dorothy Harriss Magazine Advertising Mr Roger Clarke 079 Production Mr Gordon Tyler gordonftyler@btinternet.com

The New Website for the Church. www.stguthlacs.org.uk, went live on 1st December. January calendar of services and activities, Year B.

Sunday 31st DecemberChristmas 18:00 amNo Service10:00Parish Holy Communion						
		alatians 4: 4 – 7, Luke 2: 15 – 21 Said Holy Communion Bell-ringing Practice Choir Practice				
Sunday 7th	a January	Epiphany				
	8:00am 9:45am 10:00am	Said Holy Communion Young Explorers in the Green School Parish Holy Communion				
Mon 8th Wed 10th Thur 11th Fri 12th Sat 13th	Ep 4:00pm 10:00 10:30am 7:30 pm 7:30pm 6:30pm 10:30	Talk at Teatime 17 St Guthlac Avenue Prayer Group in Church Said Holy Communion Social Events Open Meeting in Church Bell-ringing Practice Choir Practice Coffee morning in the Green School				
Sat IStil	10.30	Conee morning in the Green School				
Sunday 14	5:00pm	Morning Prayer Young Explorers in the Green School				
Wed 17th Thur 18th	10:30am 6:30 pm	Said Holy Communion Mothers' Union in Church, then AGM in the Green School				
Fri 19th Sat 20th	7:30pm 6:30pm 10:00 - 12:	Bell-ringing Practice Choir Practice 00 Book & Jigsaw sale in the Green School				

Sunday 21	st January 8:00am 10:00am	,				
Revelation 19: 6 – 10, John 2: 1 - 11						
	6:00pm	Churches Together United Service at The Methodist Church				
Tues 23rd		Ladies Guild meal				
Wed 24th	10:30am	Said Holy Communion				
	2:30pm	Rose Lodge				
Thur 25th	7:30pm	Bell-ringing Practice				
Fri 26th	6:30pm	Choir Practice				
Sat 27th	12noon	Soup and Social in the Green School				
Sunday 28th January Candlemas						
	8:00am	Said Holy Communion				
	10:00am	All Age Holy Communion				
	He	ebrews 2: 14 – end; Luke 2: 22 – 40				
	5:00pm	Evensong				
	Haggai 2: 1 – 9, John 2: 18 - 22					
Wed 31st	10:30am	Said Holy Communion				

Dates for your Diaries;

Sat 3rd February Jazz Breakfast in the Green School Sat 10th February Ladies Guild Quiz in the Green School

Spot The Differences >>> Countdown Quiz answer -MAGNITUDE.



date	time	sidespeople	reader	servers
31 Dec	10.00am	Dorothy Harriss Kay Bunn Keith Warren		G Edwards J Johnson E Denton
7 Jan	8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
	10.00am	Joy Elliman Roger Clarke Di Wheatley	June Bird	G Bacon L Ward J Bowell
14 Jan	8.00am	Anne Guthrie	Anne Guthrie	
	10.00am	Henry Roberts Kay Roberts Chris Warren	June Davis	N Bacon C Gaughan D Fowler
	5.00pm		Joy Elliman	
21 Jan	8.00am	Kevin Dawson	Kevin Dawson	
	10.00am	Janis Hewitt, Lyall Seale, Keith Warren	Scott Miller	A Gray J Bowell L Oaton
28 Jan	8.00am	Jean Jones	Jean Jones	
	10.00am	Carol Cooper Lorna Mellowes Geoff Chambers Peter Hilton	A Child	G Edwards J Bowell J Johnson
	5.00pm		Dorothy Harriss	





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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 a place for yourself on a team.