

Church Newsround – January 2012

"HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS"

Bishop's Letter

I am writing towards the beginning of 2012, near the Feast of Epiphany which to some extent is a neglected feast – though in Hispanic and Latin countries it is celebrated in great style and is the moment that presents are exchanged. For me, Epiphany has three big ideas at its heart. First, arising from the journey of the Wise Men, the idea that life is a journey of exploration from 'here to eternity' and I hope the work on discipleship we shall be beginning in 2012 will resource each one of us for this. Secondly, arising from the homage offered by the Wise Men, we are reminded of the fundamental importance of worship of something greater and beyond our routine experience. Thirdly, arising from the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, the offering of gifts as signs of love. The people of our diocese are greatly gifted by God to offer Him worship and serve him the life of the world. Let's mobilize those gifts.

Every blessing for 2012,
+ Christopher Lincoln

Magazine Annual Subscriptions are due in January. The price remains the same at 30 pence per issue.

Please pay your deliverer.

Feedback on the magazine is always welcome.

A Happy New Year to all our readers and contributors

Thank you.

Chris Hill - Editor.

The Nomad Trust

The Nomad Trust is a Christian based registered charity which provides welfare services in the city of Lincoln for those who are homeless or otherwise in need. The Nomad Trust upholds the worth and dignity of all individuals and asserts that everyone should have the basic essentials of life not least companionship.

Chairman's Message

The needs of the homeless are greater than ever before. The new Pathways Centre, owned and run by Framework on Beaumont Fee, is now open with 21 beds. Nomad have increased their emergency accommodation on Monks Road to 19 beds, and are currently full, with the winter weather only just beginning. We are only partially funded for these emergency beds. Nomad have a further 19 move-on beds on St. Giles for those who need less concentrated help, but for longer. Accommodation for the homeless in Lincoln therefore has moved from 14 beds to 59 with Nomad running 38 beds and Framework, 21.

Nomad has begun two Social Enterprises to provide occupational opportunities for those in move on accommodation; a Horticulture Project growing produce for those in homeless projects, and a Furniture Project, at 7 Bar Gate, (bottom end of the High Street) providing furniture to those being resettled and also items for sale to raise funds to support Nomad's work, and more urgently to cover the costs of our emergency accommodation. The Furniture Project has only just opened and we have already received many generous donations from the public.

Nomad remains a Christian Charity who serves those of any religion or none. To give you a general picture of our work with the homeless, we should begin with the Pathways Centre. This was originally Nomad's project, but in the end the government of the day decided it had to be run and owned by a Registered Social Landlord (Framework).

Nomad identified the need to engage more pro-actively with rough sleepers, and so set up an Outreach Team, who are doing a brilliant job. The Outreach Team and our emergency accommodation at Monks Road feeds rough sleepers into the concentrated support programmes at the Pathways Centre. There are those who then need less concentrated help but for much longer. That is where our move-on accommodation comes in. The Pathways staff can feed some of those who have completed their support programme back to

Nomad at St. Giles. Those on move-on need something to do, and therefore the Social Enterprises. It is a triangle of inter-dependence and inter-support.

The Nomad Trust begins by reaching out to the vulnerable and the homeless on our streets, and invites them to come in from the cold. We give them some food, safety, warmth, a bed, and our cook gives them breakfast at the Pathways Centre in the morning. Weeks or months later, at the other end, hopefully, comes out a person who can enjoy independent living successfully, and return to being a contributing and valuable member of our society.

The Nomad Trust thanks the community for its fantastic support over the years, and asks you to continue to help us in this most important work.

Happy Christmas.

Revd. Hamish Temple,

Chair of the Trustees of the Nomad Trust.

Appeal from the Trust

The Nomad Trust is in need of the following items:

Coffee

Cereals (not oats please)

Long Life milk

Granulated sugar

Tinned meats (Corned beef, Chopped ham and pork Luncheon meat etc.)

Soft margarine

Bacon and sausages

Milk Powder

Toilet Rolls

Fresh products i.e. (bread, bread rolls, butter, cheese)

Eggs

Fruit cordial

Thank you!

Did you know?....

The Nomad Trust has opened a Social Enterprise furniture project providing affordable, good quality items.

Opening times: Monday, Tuesday and Friday 10am - 3pm

Location: 7 Bargate (End of the High Street near the South Common)

Please tell your friends!!

The Community of St Francis 'San Damiano'

invites you on Wednesdays in Lent to a place of Sanctuary Come in, Be still, escape the noise & demands, the busyness. This is YOUR TIME. Come & go as you please 9am—9pm on 22, 29 February, 7, 14, 21, 28 March and 4 April 2012 Midday Prayer will be held in the Chapel at 12.30

The Eucharist at 6.30pm and Compline at 8.30pm you are welcome to join us.

San Damiano, 38 Drury Street, Metheringham

The Community of St Francis, 'San Damiano', Metheringham

"Journey into the Wilderness"

A Quiet Day for Lent

10th March 2012

Led by Sr Liz CSF

The quiet day will start with coffee at 10 am and end at 4pm.

Hot drinks will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch.

A suggested contribution of £15 per person for the day is requested.

Please book a place if you would like to come. Tel: 01526 321115;

email:metheringhamcsf@franciscans.org.uk

38 Drury Street, Metheringham, LN4 3EZ

SERVICES FOR JANUARY IN THE THREE PARISHES

Sunday 1st	The Second Sunday of Christmas
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	United Service – St. Wilfrid's
Thursday 5th	(and each Thursday)
9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th	The First Sunday of Epiphany
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Oswald's
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
11.00am	Church's Together – Methodist Chapel Dunston
Sunday 15th	The Second Sunday of Epiphany
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	Morning Worship – St. Wilfrid's
Sunday 22nd	The Third Sunday of Epiphany
9.00am	Morning Prayer followed by Holy Communion St. Oswald's
10.30am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
Thursday 25th	Christingle Service at St Peter's Church
2.15pm	With St Peter's School
Sunday 29th	The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany
10.30am	Group Service Communion at St. Oswald's
February	
Sunday 5th	The Third Sunday before Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion – St. Wilfrid's
9.00am	Holy Communion – St. Peter's
10.30am	United Service – Methodist Church Metheringham

Celebrating the Diamond Jubilee with a Big Lunch

How will you celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee? A record number of people are expected to take part in the fourth annual Big Lunch on Sunday 3 June 2012 to mark the Diamond Jubilee, and HOPE - the national mission initiative - is encouraging churches to take a lead.

Roy Crowne, HOPE's Executive Director, says: 'This is a calendar moment - an unmissable opportunity to make connections in your area, to be part of building up your community and to use opportunities for outreach through our words and actions. This could be just the start of 2012 community engagement with the Olympic celebrations following on. As followers of Jesus we should be in the business of community-building and sharing our hope with others.'

Churches are one of the few institutions that are in nearly every town, village and city, and so it is hoped that every denomination will get involved or even offer their catering facilities.

All Souls Church - a local parish church west of London near Twickenham - first got involved with the Big Lunch in 2009. Since then they have helped host the street party alongside their local residents' association each year.

The roads that meet at the corner of the church building are closed and they fill the space with tables and chairs, set up a 'bandstand' on the corner for live, locally-sourced music and provide a bouncy castle, free face-painting and hot drinks in the church garden. It helps, of course, that the Big Lunch date is always a Sunday, so the congregation spilling out of the morning service joins with other local residents, young and old, each bringing food to eat and share.

The Vicar, the Rev Richard Frank says, 'Our experience has been that it's a fantastic way to engage with our neighbours, bless the community and open up the doors of church to those who'd never usually make it, even into the church garden. The 2012 the Big Lunch is one of the official events helping celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. We'd enthusiastically recommend it for any local church in a residential area.'

Visit the Big Lunch page on the HOPE website www.hopetogether.co.uk to find out how you can make 3 June 2012 a day to remember in your area. PP

Have you ever wondered where the name 'Jesus' comes from?

The name Jesus is a transliteration of a name that occurs in several languages. It is of Hebrew origin, 'Yehosua', or Joshua. Or there is the Hebrew-Aramaic form, 'Yesua'. In Greek, it became 'Ἰησοῦς' (Iēsoûs), and in Latin it became 'Iesus'.

The meaning of the name is 'Yahweh delivers' or 'Yahweh rescues', or 'Yahweh is salvation'. No wonder the angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-33 told Mary to name her baby Jesus: "because he will save his people from their sins". PP

Epiphany

On 6 January we celebrate Epiphany - the visit of the wise men to the baby Jesus. But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia. It wasn't until the third century that they were they called kings - by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origen, assumed there were three - to correspond with the gifts given. Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing - and even embalming. Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things. Since the eighth century, the magi have had the names Balthasar, Caspar and Melchior. PP

Basil the Great (No relation of John Cleese !)

Basil was most people's idea of the perfect diocesan bishop. He was a theologian of distinction, who as a monk devoted himself to much prayer and teaching. He leapt to the defence of the church from the persecution of the Arian emperor Valens, but also appreciated great secular literature of the time, gave away his inheritance to the poor, knew how to run a soup kitchen, and counted thieves and prostitutes among his converts. Not your everyday bishop!

Basil (c330-79) came from a distinguished and pious family, and he had the best education available at Caesarea, Constantinople and Athens. He decided to become a monk with Gregory of Nazianzus, and settled as a hermit near Neo-Caesarea. He became bishop of Caesarea in 370, with 50 suffragan bishops to look after. It was the time of the great Arian heresy, and Basil would come to be seen as one of the great champions of the Church, defending it from secular encroachments.

Basil loved his people - and was known for his generosity and care for the poor - both through food and medical care. He was a great preacher - preaching both morning and evening to vast congregations, and organising services of psalms before daybreak. He was interested in monastic legislation, and to this day, nearly all monks and nuns of the Greek Church follow his rule. His emphasis was on community life, liturgical prayer, and manual work, rather than on solitary asceticism. His rule allowed for almsgiving, hospitals and guest-houses. Basil wrote some important works on the Holy Spirit.

He died at 49, worn out by austerities, hard work and disease. He was so loved that even strangers mourned his death, and in the centuries that followed, many artists painted pictures of him. His cult spread rapidly in the West, through Greek monks in Italy and through St Benedict admitting that his rule had been inspired by "our holy father Basil". PP

Signs & Symbols: becoming a Christian

When does one become a Christian? How about, 'When is a person made?' In England there's legislation about when a group of developing cells becomes a human being, but that notwithstanding when is s/he made?

Many of us think it was on 'the night' but apparently it can take up to forty-eight hours for the first cell division to take place. Nothing's simple, is it!

So in a similar way, can we speak of an exact moment for becoming a Christian? Baptism is the outward visible sign, but it usually comes some time after the person has requested it, and that application will probably have followed a time of exploration and discovery. Even if we are talking about infant baptism, the parent(s) will have undertaken these same steps in some form.

In some countries, at a baptism service the candidate changes their clothes immediately after their immersion; or for babies they may be naked and are then dressed in brand new clothes afterwards. Visible signs of a change in their lives.

When a new Pope is elected, he puts on new robes in a room just off the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. So, in 2005 Joseph Ratzinger entered the 'Room of Tears' as the Dean of the College of Cardinals and left it as Pope Benedict XVI.

This month:- Have a think about the time you became a Christian – did it happen gradually, in an instant of change, or are you perhaps not ever conscious of having made that choice? If you could begin today - this very moment - the life of a Christian, what changes would you make in your appearance, to where you live, or in your behaviour as signs to those around you of that decision? PP

On parish accounts, teapots and Labrador retrievers

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All

My dear Nephew Darren

Your annual accounts – all 146 pages, bound in their plastic covers and laid out in faultless detail – are really most impressive. I was rather envious to note you have a clergy 'discretionary fund'; were I given such a thing, my cellar of claret would improve immeasurably – although that is perhaps the reason why I am not given one.

The size of your office expenses makes me wonder if you have a staff rivalling that of the European Community. I suppose that at least you are doing your bit for job creation. Our dear Miss Marigold, who spends two hours a week randomly filing pieces of paper, mistyping rotas and failing to re-order stationery, is only rewarded by being the first to find out who are booking marriages and having their babies baptised – and if they do not happen in that order, that will be another piece of information remembered for future use. All this is information beyond the price of jewels in village communities.

Our accounts have more by way of charm than they do of accuracy, generally consisting of one sheet of handwritten paper. There are only ever three copies for circulation, as that is the limit of Colonel Denster's carbon paper. It seems to be an unalterable tradition that they never balance, until we find the following year that the missing £20 was found months later under the teapot on the mantelpiece. One footnote to this was the occasion when the Colonel suspected an unaccountable £5 had been eaten by his Labrador. Our greatest expenses by far are categorised as 'miscellaneous', which is a catch-all for everything that our treasurer is unable to recall where it really went.

The thousands paid on church maintenance and diocesan fees are nodded through without comment – but if the money spent on Easter lilies or packets of tea for the Summer Fete increases by anything more than 50 pence, there will be much agonised debate and speculation about whether this is an indication of money laundering.

I see that your accounts were professionally audited. Fortunately, it does not matter too much about the accuracy of our own, as I have an arrangement with our auditor who lives in the village: if he refuses to sign them off, then I refuse to baptise his grand-children.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

The Seagull

A father was at the beach with his children when his four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand. "Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked. "He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied. The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

All in the month of JANUARY It was....

600 years ago:- on 16th Jan 1412 that the Medici family were made the official bankers of the Papacy.

250 years ago:- on 4th Jan 1762 that the Seven Years' War began when Britain declared war on Spain and Naples.

150 years ago:- on 10th Jan 1862 that Samuel Colt, American firearms manufacturer who popularised the revolver, died.

100 years ago:- on 1st Jan 1912 that the Republic of China was officially established.

Also 100 years ago:- on 4th Jan 1912 that the Boy Scout Association was granted a Royal Charter, and became established throughout the Commonwealth.

Also 100 years ago:- on 8th Jan 1912 that the African National Congress (ANC) was founded in South Africa.

Also 100 years ago:- on 18th Jan 1912 that British explorer Robert Falcon Scott's expedition reached the South Pole, but discovered that Roald Amundsen's Norwegian team had beaten them by over a month.

90 years ago:- on 11th Jan 1922 that 14 year-old Leonard Thompson became the first diabetes patient to be treated with insulin, at Toronto General Hospital, Canada.

70 years ago:- on 1st Jan 1942 that during World War II 26 countries signed the Declaration of the United Nations in Washington, DC, USA, pledging to employ their full resources against Hitler and the Axis powers.

70 years ago:- on 26th Jan 1942 that the first American troops arrived in Europe. 4508 soldiers from the 34th Infantry Regiment docked in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Also 70 years ago:- on 29th Jan 1942 that the BBC Radio 4 show 'Desert Island Discs' was first broadcast. It is the world's longest running weekly factual radio programme.

50 years ago:- on 1st Jan 1962 that The Beatles auditioned for Decca Records in London, but were turned down because 'guitar groups are on the way out'.

40 years ago:- on 5th Jan 1972 that US President Richard Nixon announced the programme to develop the space shuttle.

Also 40 years ago:- on 30th Jan 1972 that Bloody Sunday took place. British paratroopers opened fire on a civil rights demonstration in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, killing 13 people (plus another who died later) and injuring many others.

30 years ago:- on 10th Jan 1982 that the lowest temperature ever recorded in England was taken. It was -26.1C at Newport, Shropshire. Scotland's lowest ever temperature was equalled: -27.2C at Braemar, Aberdeenshire.

25 years ago:- on 10th Jan 1987 that Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy in the Middle East, was kidnapped in Beirut, Lebanon while on a peace mission to negotiate the release of hostages. (Released Nov 1991)

10 years ago:- on 1st Jan 2002 that the euro became the official currency of Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. PP

Quotes of the month

Hope means expectancy when things are otherwise hopeless. GK Chesterton

God looks at the clean hands, not the full ones. Pubilius Syrus

Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. John F Kennedy

Grief drives men into the habits of serious reflection, sharpens the understanding and softens the heart. John Adams

Wealth is not only what we have, but what we are. Anon

Many come to bring their clothes to church rather than themselves. Anon

Churches in cities are most wonderful solitudes. - Thomas Merton

It was such a lovely day I thought it a pity to get up. - Somerset Maugham

Those who dance are considered insane by those who cannot hear the music. - George Carlin

Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else. - James M. Barrie

Everywhere is within walking distance if you have the time. - Steven Wright

I told my psychiatrist that everyone hates me. He said I was being ridiculous - everyone hasn't met me yet. - Rodney Dangerfield

Remember that Triumph is just a little "umph" added to "try."

I still say a church steeple with a lightning rod on top shows a lack of confidence.

I want a film that begins with an earthquake and works up to a climax. - Samuel Goldwyn

Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment.

Keep looking around. There's always something you've missed.

Make something idiot-proof and someone will make a better idiot.

Laughter adds richness, texture and colour to otherwise ordinary days. It is a gift, a choice, a discipline and an art. T Hansel

Moses revisited

Nine year old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

What the Pope says

Q: Is it true that the Soviet prime minister has reached an official agreement with the Pope?

A: Basically, yes. But there is still a dispute about the preamble. The Pope wants it to say in the beginning, 'God created man'; the PM wants the addition 'as per the Party's instructions'.

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Winter travel

A government warning said that anyone travelling in icy conditions should take: shovel, blankets, sleeping bag, scarf, hat and gloves, 24 hours supply of food and drink, de-icer, rock salt, torch, spare batteries, road flares, reflective triangles, tow rope, a five gallon petrol jerrycan, first aid kit, and jump leads. So ... I looked a complete pratt on the bus this morning!