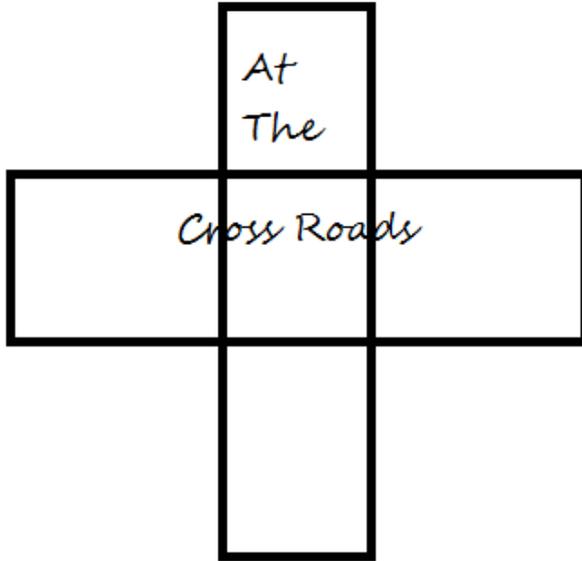


At the Cross Roads



Lent, Holy Week and Easter

2016

*The Newsletter for the Parish of St
Mary Magdalene with St Paul in
the Bail and St Michael on the
Mount, Lincoln*

Reflections from the Vicar

During 2015 the Bishop of Lincoln encouraged the Diocese to focus on the theme of 'Discipleship'. I am glad about this as 'disciple' and 'discipleship' tended to be the forgotten words in Christian vocabulary. More popular phrases in some church's vocabulary have been 'the priesthood of all believers' and 'every member ministry'. 'Discipleship' seems to me to be closer to the spirit of the New Testament.

The Church is comprised of disciples, those who follow the Way and the teaching of Jesus. It begins with baptism. Some disciples will be trained to serve the Church and be witnesses in the world through a call to public ministry being recognised by the Church. There are several integrated forms of this public authorised and trained ministry.

In the Church of England we have: Holy Orders (of bishop, priest and deacon); Readers (licensed to preach, teach and assist in the leading of worship with a pastoral heart); and authorised lay ministers (who assist with the pastoral ministry and care shared within a local parish). In addition, to be director of a parish's music and choir is also a valued form of lay ministry.

We also have important structures of local Church governance through elected Church wardens, secretaries, treasurers and PCC's. And, of course, there is the unifying work of Deanery, Diocesan and General Synods.

But most important of all is the daily witness, life and service of all Disciples. This language of discipleship is also more important than language of membership or churchgoing – we are not a club, but the people of God striving to live out our faith in our daily lives, values, relationships and work. Most discipleships are quite anonymous, self-giving: discipleships of salt, adding flavour to daily life, church and community without seeking titles or status. In everyday committed discipleship lies the heart and strength of the Church.

This is reflected in one of my favourite prayers, from Ignatius of Loyola:

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

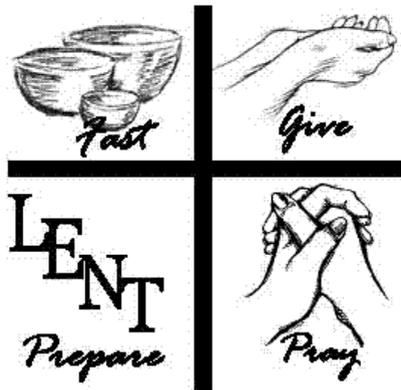
I pray that Lent 2016 will give all of us the encouragement to deepen our discipleship, individually and together.

Alex Whitehead



LENT 2016

Keeping a good Lent might involve setting aside a little more time for personal reflection and prayer, or Bible study. We might 'give up' something for Lent and give more to charity. We might engage together as a church or in groups with some of the special arrangements for Lent as follows:



Through Lent with Luke

In our regular Sunday readings in Church the Gospel readings are described as 'the Year of Luke'. So in Lent, our preaching team will use the Sunday morning sermons to explore how insights from St Luke's Gospel may deepen our understanding of the whole Gospel of Jesus. The series will begin on the 2nd Sunday in Lent, February 21st.

House Groups

The Bishop of Lincoln and the Chairman of the Methodist District have designed a Lent Course based on the Methodist Modern Art Collection, which will be on display throughout Lent in Lincoln Cathedral. A handsomely illustrated free study booklet has been prepared for use by parish Lent groups. Ours will take place on **Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at 2 Wainwell Mews and at 10.00am on Friday mornings at 70 Yarborough Crescent.**

Mothering Sunday

One of the joys of Church life at St Mary Magdalene's is the opportunity we have to welcome families for Christenings. This encourages us to want to find ways of introducing children and families to the riches of our Church of England Sunday worship and to make families and children feel welcome. **A special child friendly All Age Holy Communion is planned for Mothering Sunday, 6th March at 1100am. Please come and join in. Bring your children. Come as a family. You are very welcome in the family of God.**



Holy Week

March 20th Palm Sunday

11.00am Sung Eucharist and Procession of Palms

6.00pm The Passion of Our Lord according to St Luke:
Readings, Anthems, Hymns and Prayer

March 21st and 22nd Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday

7.00pm Holy Communion

March 23 Holy Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion 7.00pm Holy Communion

March 24th Maundy Thursday

7.00pm Sung Eucharist and Stripping of the Altars

8.15pm (approximately) Silent Vigil

9.30pm Compline

March 25th Good Friday

11.30am Churches Together in Lincoln Walk of Witness ,
beginning from Bailgate Methodist Church

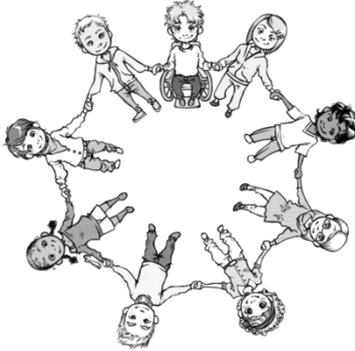
2.00pm Devotional Service for the Last Hour of the Cross

March 27th EASTER DAY

11.00am The Liturgy of Easter Day with the Festival of Light,
the Renewal of Baptism Vows and Holy Communion



FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



Jane Harris and members of the Ministry Team have been looking at ways of strengthening the fellowship and friendship of Church members and friends of St Mary Magdalene through a calendar of various types of activity throughout the year.

This is a Draft of possible Future Events for 2016:

Look out for future details and information in the regular Church notices. and Sunday Service Sheet

Tuesday 23rd Feb: Snowdrop Walk at Brightwater Gardens Saxby (near Market Rasen LN8 2DQ). Meet at 11am in the Hay Barn Café. Entry to gardens £4.50

Sunday March 20th: Sunday Lunch at Fratellis, Newport Meet at 1.15 at the restaurant (The Roast is good value at £6.50)

Saturday April 23rd : Roof Tour of the Cathedral Cost £4

Tuesday May 17th : Christian Aid Lunch at Eden House
(Donations)

Monday June 20th 6pm) : Lecture: 'Robert Grossteste, Lincoln's Medieval Einstein'. (Dr Jack Cunningham) £3 – Refreshments from 5.30pm Lecture 6pm – 7.30

(Hosted by the History Society – venue BGU)

Saturday July 16th : Whisby Nature Park & picnic. Meet in the entrance at 11am.

Wednesday 17th August Canal Walk – meet at The Pyewipe 11am – walk to the Brayford for lunch

Monday in September –date tbc. Any Questions Dinner.
(Venue to be confirmed. **Monday 24th to Tuesday 25th**

October Retreat at Launde Abbey – **In the Footsteps of St Francis** –A deeper look at our spiritual inheritance. Led by James Shakespeare

£92 to include all meals & refreshments for two days & overnight stay - arriving 10am Monday leaving after lunch on Tuesday.

Friday November 25th: Donna Nook Nature Reserve. An ideal time to see the seals – bulls, cows & pups! Short Coastal walk (2 miles) Meet at Donna Nook (Marsh Lane LN11 7PD) 11am

followed by a pub lunch at the nearby 16th century inn, The King's Head, Mill Road Theddlethorpe LN12 1PB Lunch at 12.45

Thursday 8th December: Christmas lunch locally (TBC)

Further information will become available from the Ministry Team and Jane Harris at 01522 807410

Sunday School

Pippa Duce, our Sunday School co-ordinator, would appreciate more volunteers to help with the Sunday School. We have a little group of lively children who meet in the vestry most Sunday mornings with a rota of leaders and helpers. Is this something you would like to consider? If so, please let Pippa or the Vicar know. They will be glad to hear from you.



Church Sitters

One of the great aspirations of St Mary Magdalene's Parish is for it to be outward looking and inclusive, rather than inward looking and exclusive. We like to open our doors to Bailgate, the Steep and Castle Square and the great many visitors who pass our door and would like to look in.

An important part of this 'welcome' ministry is provided by our Church Sitters Team, who in pairs enable the church to be open for an hour between 10.30am and 11.30am, Monday to Friday, most weeks of the year.

We can always do with more volunteers. If you would like to know more about what this entails, please have a word with our Church Sitter co-ordinators, Sandra Longden, 01522 542189 or Paul Cartwright, 01673 862337.

A **Thank You and Information Meeting** for Church sitters has been called for **Wednesday 3rd February at 10.30am** in church after the 10.00am Holy Communion.

The meeting will also include a talk on the History of the Church building by Dr Shirley Brook. And there will be coffee, tea, cake and chat.



**The Visit of the
Right Reverend Johnson Gakumba
Bishop of Northern Uganda**



In February we are very pleased to welcome Bishop Johnson as a friend and brother in Christ, when he will preach at the 11.00am Sung Eucharist on February 14th. His wife Christine will be accompanying him.

Bishop Johnson has now celebrated his 6th year as Bishop of Northern Uganda.

In November 2014 Margaret Ford, our retired CMS Missionary to Uganda and Reader, and Neil Jelly, one of our Church Wardens, visited Northern Nigeria.

Useful Names and Numbers

Vicar: The Revd Canon Alex Whitehead - 01522 787949
alexander@matthew2244.plus.com

Honorary Associate Clergy:

The Revds Margaret and Brian Saunders- 01522 523193

Associate Ecumenical Minister:

The Revd Dr R. Geoffrey Harris- 01522 807410

Readers:

Margaret Ford- 01522 534028

Clare Lindsay- 01522 527391

Maggie Townend- 01526 388359

Organist and Choir Master:

Christopher Brook - 01522 520401

Church Wardens:

Jonathan Wilkins- 01522 527137

Neil Jelly- 01522 889862

Parochial Church Council Secretary:

Lindsay Wilkins- 01522 527137

Treasurer:

Eleanor Thomas- 07802648701

Church Sitters:

Paul Cartwright- 01673 862337

Sandra Longden- 01522 542189