

## St Botolph's Chronicle

Spring 2022  
Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March  
Editor – Carole

Dear Friends

I hope we are all getting over the recent stormy weather. By coincidence on the weekend of the storms, the reading for that Sunday was the story of Jesus calming the storm at sea. Reading this story led me to reflect that, as a nation, we are about to enter a time of great uncertainty, a storm caused by a combination of Brexit, Covid, world-wide economic pressures, the Russian invasion of Ukraine and even the “Time to Change Together” initiative in the diocese. Our natural reaction in times of difficulty and stress is to batten down the hatches (to use a naval term) and protect ourselves. I feel that we must resist this natural inclination to withdraw from activities in order to keep ourselves safe. We are called by Jesus to go and search for those who are in need of help, not to hide away and keep ourselves safe. The PCC has been thinking about our mission as a church and we have decided to focus our main mission on searching for those who need to find Jesus. We have selected three areas of outreach to the wider community. This year we are going to focus on: -

**Messy Church** – developing what we have started and building the regularity from termly to monthly. Messy Church is doing church differently in a different place, attracting different people.

**Alpha** - Helping people to learn more about Jesus through discussion and hospitality. It was developed by Holy Trinity Church in Brompton in London and is now used world-wide to draw people to meet Jesus.

**CAP (Christians against Poverty)**

CAP is a nation-wide charity that helps people escape debt by showing them how to better manage their finances and by working with their creditors to reschedule their debts and repayments. We plan to start simply by helping people plan their household budgets.

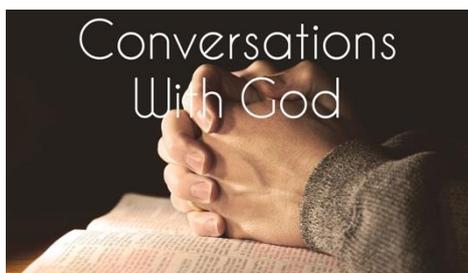
In addition to these three areas, I suspect that we will also be called to provide more direct support to people struggling with the financial squeeze of increased energy and food costs. As churches in the town and the surrounding villages, we will be invited to work collaboratively to develop a supportive Christian presence in the town. By working in structured partnership with our sister churches we can be more effective in God's mission.

We will also be called upon to support people fleeing from the conflict in Ukraine. We have a duty to support refugees either directly here in the UK or those fleeing to

safety in other countries. In my opinion, as a country we have become too insular and unwelcoming and have neglected our responsibilities to care for refugees, the homeless and the dispossessed.

Let us all be generous in our welcome, and generous in our support, of all people who are displaced as a result of Ukraine invasion and let us continue to pray for peace.

Every blessing  
Mark Thomson



Rebecca writes: -

At PrayerLine in January we gathered to pray for vision for the year ahead.

As we do each month, we enjoyed some guided reflection and some of us prayed or shared our thoughts.

During one of the times of silence the following prayer started to form in my mind, just the opening line at first  
"My vision for 2022 is a vision of you".

Then towards the end of our prayer time it grew as follows.

"My vision for 2022  
is a vision of you  
not something to do  
but to draw people closer to  
the one who  
changes everything."



I pray that for me, and for you, that Jesus would be at the centre of our thinking and our conversations and our resting and that our actions would grow from a closer walk with him this year.

### **Helpline number 07592 065567**

At the start of the pandemic, we introduced a helpline number for people to get in contact with us for support during the lockdowns. The number was not used very often and over the last year or so there have been no calls made to that number.

It has been decided, therefore, to close this mobile line.

Autumn Churchyard – *(inspired by a walk through our churchyard on a windy Autumn day)*

Autumn leaves rest from skittering tumbles  
As the chill wind takes a breath  
From its whirl around the stones  
In the ordered rows  
Under Portland limestone, marble and granite  
Lie residents, recalled with incised names and dates  
And a valedictory verse  
Lovingly tended with sprays of anniversary flowers  
These are the fortunate  
Many are long forgotten  
Noted only by the passing casual visitor  
Who seeks a moment of peace from the rush  
Of life  
Peace lies beneath the stones  
An ancient quiet  
What was the life of this man, this woman?  
This child who lived but short weeks?  
What was their death?  
Old age, war, by accident, disease?  
Without breath at birth?  
Death's armoury bursts with weapons  
The final journey borne through the lychgate  
On bearers shoulders  
Or carried by a father as a gift,  
To return to earth  
All were loved.



The wind revived  
Whips up the leafy dancers  
To quick step, tango  
Waltz and jive  
Until a quiet place is found for rest  
The dance is done  
And slow decay  
Returns their spirit to the ground

Charles Coulson 2021

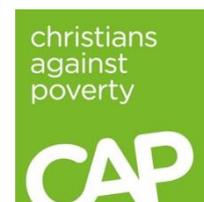
**Mission Priorities at St Botolph's Church for 2022**

St Botolph's Church has identified Alpha, CAP and Messy Church as three mission priorities for 2022. This means that, as well as existing church activities and all of the wonderful projects that our members support in the community, we will specifically work to establish these three areas of mission. So, what are they?



The **Alpha** course is a ten-week course for those interested in finding out what Christians believe. This could be those who know nothing about Christianity or Christians who would like to understand more about the basics of our faith. The format is a talk or video followed by a discussion group whilst sharing a meal together.

**CAP – Christians Against Poverty.** This course doesn't mean people have to be in poverty, it is to help people to organise their finances so they can manage their money and have enough money for those times when things go wrong such as the washing machine breaking down. The CAP Money Course has three main aims:



- \*How to build and live on a budget – managing money well.
- \*The Money System – divides money into a three-account system to simplify finances
- \*How to live week to week as well as budget for long term goals



**Messy Church** is a church service for all ages based around activities, a story with a short talk, songs and a light supper together. It is especially accessible to families as the activities are good fun and a little messy but work together with the theme of the story, the talk and the songs giving everyone time to talk about the theme while they are doing them

### Offerings to God

“Now I will write about the collection of money for God's people. Do the same thing that I told the Galatian churches to do: <sup>2</sup> On the first day of every week, each one of you should put aside as much money as you can from what you are blessed with.”

1 Corinthians 16:1-2

*You can give to the church either by cheque or by BACS to*

**BANK:** HSBC, 26 Market Place, Sleaford NG34 7SB

**ACC NAME:** St. Botolph's Church, Quarrington.

**SORT CODE:** 40-42-07.

**ACC NUMBER:** 21515403

# Lent Lunches 2022



## Lunches served at 12pm

Delicious soups will be served each Monday during Lent

Donations are invited - all proceeds to Christian Aid

7<sup>th</sup> March

Catholic Church

14<sup>th</sup> March

New Life Church

21<sup>st</sup> March

Riverside Church

28<sup>th</sup> March

Salvation Army

4<sup>th</sup> April

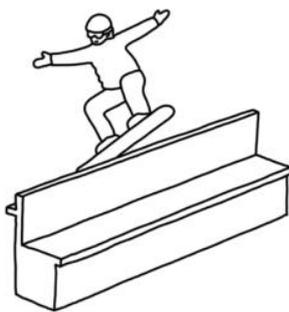
St. Botolph's Church

11<sup>th</sup> April

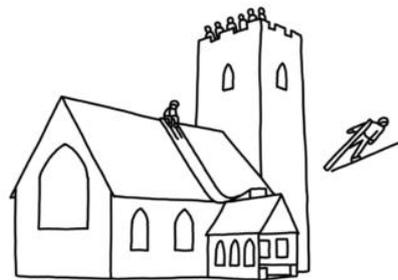
Methodist Church

# THE WINTER GAMES

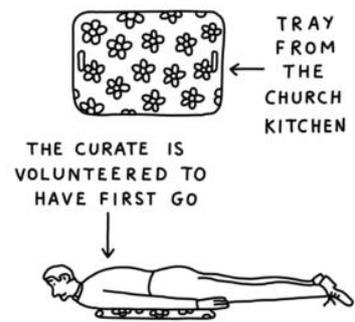
AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH



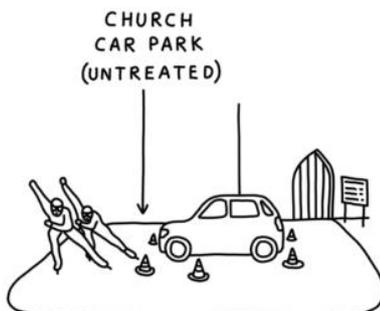
SNOWBOARDING



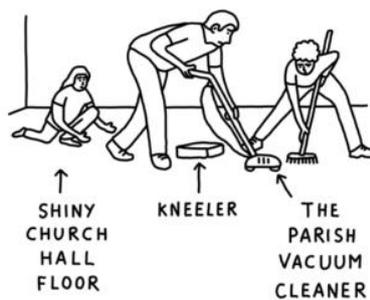
SKI JUMPING



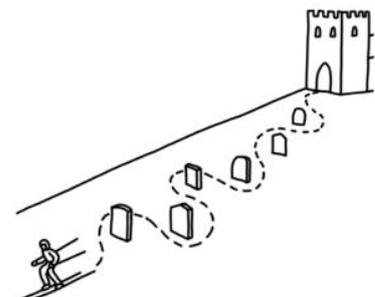
SKELETON



SPEED SKATING



CURLING



SLALOM

CartoonChurch.com

Cartoon by kind permission of Dave Walker

## **PCC Update from Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

- The Diocese has written to thank St Botolph's for our Covenant Giving Pledge of £25,000 for 2022
- The PCC has adopted a Safer Recruitment Policy to help guide any future appointments to paid or volunteer roles
- We will be applying to the Diocese for a grant from the Transformation Fund to help us buy a portable PA system to use at Messy Church, in the hall and at other events.
- The St Botolph's Church Community Hall has returned to making a small surplus in funds after a difficult two years of lockdowns etc. Extensive repairs and improvement have been carried out and other improvements are planned for this year. The hall will restart making contributions to church funds this year.
- The PCC has decided to engage our architect Matthew Thomas to carry out a survey of the church building, which will include an investigation by a heating engineer of stage 2 of our heating project. We replaced the boiler a couple of years ago and we need to replace the old pipes and radiators with more modern equivalents. The Architect will also advise on other improvement plans.
- Churchyard Clear-up Dates are:  
1<sup>st</sup>April, 2<sup>nd</sup>July, 3<sup>rd</sup>September, and 5<sup>th</sup>November
- The PCC agreed to hold a special service to mark the Queens Jubilee followed by a church picnic. We are also looking into holding a family event on Spire View.
- We have revised the way that we manage our setting up for and our welcome at our Sunday services. Welcome Teams have been put together to serve on specific Sundays. Initial reports are that the new Welcome Team approach is working well. Please let Jaki Lowder have any comments or observations

## **PCC Decision 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

In light of the recent changes in Covid regulations, at the Mission Planning meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March, the PCC decided to withdraw the requirement for people to wear masks in church. Those who wish to continue to wear mask are welcome to do so. We will, however, retain the "safe distancing" arrangements in the north aisle for those who wish this facility. We will continue to receive only bread at Communion at the moment.