



Churches Together in Sleaford and District

Thoughts from the Chair.

It was good to be together again at the start of another year. At the conclusion of our week of prayer for Christian Unity we celebrated that togetherness with contributions from every church and a particularly inspiring message from Rev. Nick Munday. There was a positive response to the various pulpit exchanges and the theme of Only Justice was well taken up. Our togetherness was suitably challenged in our final joint service in 2018 when Rev. Robert Bushby at Riverside Church shared a video clip from churches in Teesside declaring what the church was doing there. If you have not seen this you will find it at <https://vimeo.com/303250409> it is well worth watching.

So as we pick up the challenges and opportunities of another year the ministers met for a breakfast meeting to hear from Ian Fytche, Chief Executive of North Kesteven District Council about the challenges he personally and his organisation as well as the nation face through this year. And beyond. How might we, the Church, respond and contribute positively to these challenges? Yes we can do it through the various agencies we run and support –

- through the Food Bank (New Life Community Larder) stretched further and harder than ever before as Universal Credit is introduced
- through Evergreen Befriending as the scourge of loneliness across all ages increases but is particularly felt by the elderly
- through the care on the streets and a place of safety off them offered through StreetSource at the weekend, helping to keep vulnerable individuals safe.
- through the Youth Club and Youth Football giving young people places to meet and activities to follow. Particularly important in the current national scene relating to violent crimes.
- And through others too

Yet the challenge comes to each of us individually as we consider for ourselves at personal level what we may contribute at a very local level on the streets where we live, amongst the people who see us day to day. What would Jesus do? What would He say? How would He make a difference? How might I follow His lead where I live, or work, or socialise?

As we step forward into this new year I pray that we may all encounter a new season of opportunity and be courageous enough to Take on the various and uniquely personal challenges that will come our way. I would love for some of us to stand up at the final joint service of this year and declare confidently what God has been doing through us in Sleaford and area during 2019.

Keith

Diary Dates

United Service at St Denys', Sleaford on Sunday 31st March at 6pm

Good Friday Walk of Witness, 19th April – 10:45am for 11:00am at Station Road followed by a service in the Market Place and then refreshments and Hot Cross Buns at The Source Café.

CTSD Exec. Meeting at the Methodist Church on Thursday 25th April at 7:30pm

Christian Aid Week – 12th – 18th May

CTSD AGM Meeting at the Methodist Church on Thursday 20th June at 7:30pm

Evergreen Sleaford

Evergreen Sleaford, our local befriending service, continues to be in high demand. January saw a big influx in volunteers completing the training and induction process, which means we have been able to put several friendships in place already in 2019, and the possibility to find friends for those on our waiting list.

With 50 current friendships now in place, our volunteers are doing a marvellous job. We're really excited at the prospect of being able to provide friendships for more elderly people within our 10-mile radius.

We do expect to see demand for our service increase as Social Prescribing gathers pace, so please continue to pray for our elderly and for the right volunteers to continue to come through.

Church by Nature

One of the many ways that Christians experience God is through 'God's other book', which is to say through Nature. Church by Nature (Sleaford Forest Church) is a means of exploring and learning more of God by being in the natural world. We started in February 2019 meeting at 2pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month by the mosaic bench to the rear of the NCCD (Hub) and sharing together in a reflective walk around the River Sleas, The Nettles, Cogglesford Mill and Lollycocks followed by refreshments in the NCCD Cafe. The meeting is open to all and the walks are at a gentle pace on paths which are generally suitable for wheelchair/electric scooter use.

Church by Nature (or any form of forest church) is not 'normal church' held outside. Rather it is a way of encountering God, the Divine Creator, through Creation. It is nature who is the teacher so we need to keep all our senses open to what is being taught.

You can find us on Facebook as 'Church by Nature Sleaford' and you're welcome to join us at any of our events on the 2nd Sunday at 2pm every month. We meet by the mosaic bench behind the NCCD/Hub.

Second Chance

Second Chance continues to do well. Donations are plentiful and income remains high. We are now looking at the possibility of having a market stall occasionally. This will help to increase sales and be better known in the community. This year we are continuing to donate to our regular beneficiaries, but are also approaching a selection of local primary schools offering help with financing extra-curricular activities. This is exciting and rewarding work which our volunteers enjoy. However, a few more volunteers would be really helpful. If you think you might like to have a go just pop into the shop and ask. Hours are very flexible; even a couple of hours a week would be much appreciated.

New Life Community Larder

2018 was a busy year for the New Life Community Larder. We fed 1,111 people (that's 9,999 meals!) through 548 referrals. Thanks to donations from individuals, churches, schools and businesses, we have been able to meet the demand we have faced.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we were able to provide 48 Christmas Hampers to some of the families and individuals we supported in the run up to Christmas. This was a great opportunity for us, The Church, to share the Good News of Christ with families at Christmas.

2019 has got off to an incredibly busy start. We received 75 referrals for food parcels in January alone (compared to 35 in January 2018!) We envisage that demand remaining as changes in benefits take place.

Please join us in praying as now, more than ever, we will have opportunities to share with the people we meet. Pray that lives will continue to be impacted and changed through the Good News of Christ and the work that we do.

Sleaford Youth Club

Sleaford Youth Club (Fridays, 7:00 – 9:00pm) and Monday Night Football (Mondays, 6:15 - 7:30pm) continue to be popular provisions for the young people who access them. We've recently had a few additions to the team meaning we're more able than ever to positively impact the lives of the young people with whom we build lasting relationships. Over the past few months we've been able to provide a wide depth of activities in the Youth Club including sessions on Social Media and the internet, cooking, baking and games nights, with more lined up for future sessions.

We've been excited to introduce Soul Search to our Church youth and young people who come to Sleaford Youth Club recently. Soul Search takes place every other Sunday from 6:00 – 8:00pm at Sleaford Youth Centre. It's a space for young people in school years 7-13 (aged 11-18 years) to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed atmosphere with fun games, conversations and pizza! We make every effort to make the young people feel at home and as if they are having these conversations in their own living room. Each session is based around a topic of discussion that the young people have chosen themselves; the first few session topics have been God, Death and Suffering.

To find out more about our projects, please search 'Sleaford Youth Club' or 'New Life Youth' on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Coign Christian Music Events

**Thursday 21st March, 7:30pm
Cranwell Military Wives Choir**

Ruskington Methodist Church

Cranwell Military Wives Choir was first established in 2012. Today the choir has over 50 members who meet weekly to rehearse and catch up.

Nick Munday

On the 6th April, Nick Munday will be retiring from full-time ministry and stepping down from his role as Rector in the South Lafford parish.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Nick for his contribution to the work of Churches Together in Sleaford and District over the years and wish him every blessing as he steps into the next chapter that God has for him and his family.

Street Source

We have been operating since July 2008 from 10:30pm every Saturday until 2:00am on Sunday morning operating both a café and some support in the town centre. It is all about showing unconditional love to the folk in the town whatever their circumstances, whatever state they happen to be in. It is not our job to judge it is our job to love and serve.

Our vision is that we will start to “mould the culture of the town” and we now have some volunteers who are “non-Christian” and not linked to any of the churches. We continue to receive a lot of positive feedback through Facebook and the Sleaford page and we want this work to grow.

In order to do this we are in need of some more volunteers please.

How does it work? – The admin

Volunteers receive an email quarterly asking for their availability. Volunteers generally either say any dates except these, these specific dates or one Saturday a month excluding these dates

There is no pressure on how many duties you do and it can vary from quarter to quarter. Volunteers can do as many or as few as they like. Some volunteers do one per month and some do one per quarter. Both are equally welcome and appreciated. You do not need any particular skills, just a heart to love, serve and listen. If you can volunteer please contact Jem Green on 07412 174763 or on 01529 414512 for more information.

Easter Service Times

St Denys', Sleaford		
Palm Sunday (14th April)	8:00am	Holy Communion
	10:00am	Holy Communion
	6:00pm	Palm Sunday Meditation
Monday 15th April	8:45am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Holy Communion
	7:00pm	Compline & Reflection
Tuesday 16th April	8:45am	Morning Prayer
	9:00am	Holy Communion
	7:00pm	Compline & Reflection
Wednesday 17th April	10:00am	Holy Communion
	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Maundy Thursday (18th April)	8:45am	Morning Prayer
	7:00pm	Maundy Liturgy
Good Friday (19th April)	12:00 noon	The First Hour (with hymns)
	1:00pm	The Second Hour
	2:00pm	The Liturgy for the Final Hour
Easter Sunday (21st April)	6:00am	Sunrise Mass
	8:00am	Book of Common Prayer
	10:00am	Easter Communion
	6:00pm	Evensong
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Catholic Church, Jermyn Street, Sleaford		
Maundy Thursday (18th April)	7:00pm	Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday (19th April)	3:00pm	Liturgy of the Passion
Holy Saturday (20th April)	8:00pm	Easter Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday (21st April)	10:00am	Mass
Riverside Church, Southgate, Sleaford		
Good Friday (19th April)	10:00am	Around the Cross
Good Friday (19th April)	12:00 noon	Free Coffee & Hot Cross Buns - The Source Café
Easter Sunday (21st April)	10:45am	Family Celebration
New Life Church, Mareham Lane, Sleaford		
Friday 29th March	6:00pm	Film Night *
Palm Sunday (14th April)	10:00am	Palm Sunday Service
Good Friday (19th April)	7:30pm	Jesus in the Passover Meal (with Phil Webb)
Easter Sunday (21st April)	10:00am	Resurrection Sunday Celebration
Easter Monday (22nd April)	3:00pm	Senior Citizens' Easter Tea *
		* Free event - booking required via New Life Office on: 01529 413063
St Botolph's Church, Quarrington, Sleaford		
Monday 15th April	7:00pm	Taize Service
Tuesday 16th April	6:00pm	Evening Prayer
Wednesday 17th April	6:00pm	Evening Prayer
Maundy Thursday (18th April)	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday
Good Friday (19th April)	9:30am	Good Friday Reflections
Easter Sunday (21st April)	6:00am	Easter Dawn Service
Easter Sunday (21st April)	11:00am	Easter Communion & Baptisms
St Denis', Silk Willoughby		
Palm Sunday (14th April)	9:00am	Holy Communion
Good Friday (19th April)	2:00pm	Liturgy of the Day
Easter Sunday (21st April)	9:00am	Holy Communion
Salvation Army Citadel, West Banks, Sleaford		
Palm Sunday (14th April)	10:00am	Worship
Palm Sunday (14th April)	6:00pm	Worship
Tuesday 16th April	6:00pm	Musical Meditation
Good Friday (19th April)	6:00pm	Good Friday Meeting
Easter Sunday (21st April)	10:00am	Worship
Easter Sunday (21st April)	6:00pm	Worship
Methodist Church, Northgate, Sleaford		
Maundy Thursday (18th April)	7:00pm	Tenebrae Service
Good Friday (19th April)	10:00am	Good Friday Service
Easter Sunday (21st April)	8:30am	Easter Communion followed by breakfast
Easter Sunday (21st April)	10:30am	Morning Worship
<i>Good Friday Walk of Witness - Please join us for the Annual Walk of Witness followed by an open air service in the market place. Please assemble on Station Road from 10:45am for an 11:00am start. Following the service there will be Hot Cross Buns and refreshments at the Source Cafe at Riverside Church from 12:00 noon.</i>		

Contact us.

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