



Circuit News



Winter
2024-2025

Lincoln
17/02

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A massive thank you to all our contributors for making this publication so successful. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us; we welcome your thoughts. Please address to info@lincolnmethodist.org.uk

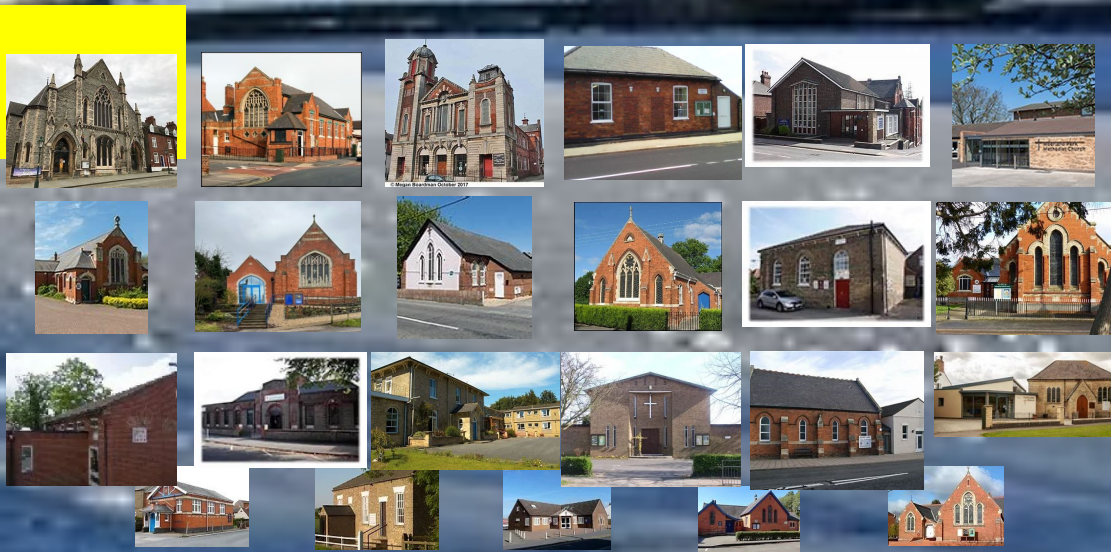
In the meantime, please enjoy a Blessed Christmas and look forward to a peaceful New Year.

Material for the **Spring 2025** edition of **Circuit News** must be with the Circuit Office by Wednesday, **12 February 2025**. Any material received after this date will not be included in the March edition.

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Circuit Letter

'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' goes the song by Michael Bublé. But, it all depends on what you understand by the word 'Christmas'. The word itself is condensed from two words, Christ's Mass, where Christ is Jesus and Mass is the Communion service celebrated in churches.

As the song unfolds the artist refers to the items he imagines Christmas to be about - the candy canes, dolls that talk, hopalong boots and a pistol that shoots. It ties in with all the adverts which are on overdrive at the moment as retailers compete for the increased sales that occur each Christmas. Retailers pressurise us to buy this year's goods which experience tells us, may get little or no use, but might make us feel happy in the short term.

And yet, the items in the song are not the first thing I think of when I hear the word *Christmas*. As a minister I think of Christmas as God making himself known to us. The birth of a baby in Bethlehem provides us with a story for understanding humanity. Due to the town being overcrowded, the unmarried mother Mary gives birth in a smelly stable. The baby is given

the name Jesus (which means *the Lord Saves*) and Immanuel (meaning *God with us*).

As we know well, there is a bleaker aspect to Christmas. Debt, illness, homelessness and bereavement feel harder to bear when we are told "tis the season to be jolly". Likewise, war and conflict rage on regardless.

The deeper meaning of this Baby, born into poverty far from home, is that God is with us whatever our circumstances, throughout the full range of life's experiences. To know the One who also experienced the ups and downs of life in this world, is the message of hope this Christmas season: God with us.

May this Christmas be a blessing to you,
Rev Richard



News from our churches



Central Methodist Church

Reverend Margaret is recovering from her knee operation. We miss her and continue to pray for her.

We are continuing to reach out to the community with our coffee morning drop ins, New to You shop and food bank. On a food bank day citizens advice also attends.

The Centre for Reconciliation hold a twice monthly hygiene bank.

When you read this the ABBA Dream tribute will have taken place. We want to thank everyone in the circuit for their support to our "out of the box" fundraising. We hope you all had a good time.

We are looking forward to holding our Christmas Tree festival on Saturday December 14th with stalls and light refreshments in the hall. We finish with Carols by candlelight at 4pm.

We pray we can continue to do Gods work on the lower high street by holding events to bring people into the premises and helping those who are in need.

Link to Hope - Shoebox Appeal, Christmas 2024

With the help and support of all our friends from Swallowbeck, Moorland Park, Nettleham, Central, Waddingham, Louth, Grantham, City School Lincoln, LSST Priory Academy



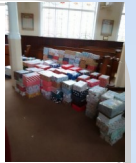
and various independent individuals we will be sending 283 shoeboxes on their way on Tuesday 12th November.

So, a big thank you to you all.

Addendum

The ABBA Tribute Show held at Central on 13th November saw 150+ people singing along and dancing to all the memorable ABBA hits. Folk came from various parts of the circuit and agreed that they had a great evening.

Thank you to those that were able to support this event, and we'll let you know what's coming next.



Cherry Willingham

As I sit down to type the news from Cherry Willingham, I can hardly believe we are just a few weeks away from the start of Advent 2024!



So, **reflecting** firstly on the happenings over the past few months with our Church activities and special occasions, starting with the Harvest Festival for adults with learning disabilities are arranged and organised by the Cherry Willingham team. As usual the 'visual' effects of the occasion are created skilfully with superb displays of the produce and the delights of creation. This 'Prospects' service continues to be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 3pm at Washingborough Methodist Church.



We joined with the village Churches Together for the family open-air Harvest on the Cherry Fields, support-



ed musically by the Lincoln Salvation Army Band. The weather wasn't promising, fine at the start, and soon after it rained and heavy! However still a great occasion in a superb location.

On Thursday 31st October we held the annual 'Pumpkin' event on the 'Parade' in the centre of the village offering and organised by the 3 Churches in Cherry Willingham. It offered a distinct alternative to the more usual events on the last day of October. Held between 5 and 7pm, the turnout was excellent. The younger generation were each given a carrier bag of Hope, this year a total of 200 bags were handed out, and some significant 'faith' conversations held.

Looking forward to future happenings; turning to Advent and beyond, we have the annual Carol service at the Grand Luce Court care home on Sunday December 15th commencing at 10.30am.

On Thursday 19th December we join with the Vine and Anglican Churches to lead Carols on the Parade. Adults and children are invited to dress up and take part in a tableau of the story of Jesus' birth. Mince pies and hot drinks are available afterwards in the Vine Centre.

Sunday worship changes over the Christmas period are as follows:- On Sunday 22nd December we join with Reepham at 10.30am and on Christmas Day can join with Cherry Anglican church at 10.30am (subject to time confirmation)

*Please continue to send your used ink cartridges to
Richard Wilson at
Navenby Methodist Church*



Monks Road Methodist Church

Christmas Blessings to all friends at all our circuit churches. May our faith at this joyful season be reinvigorated ready to go forward in 2025 with deeper insight and renewed strength, ready to tell all of this Wonderful Counsellor and Saviour.

At Monks Road we will have had our Christmas Fair when this newsletter is printed but it is always a good opportunity to welcome many friends into our church and share friendship with all who enter.

Our annual Gift service this year will be held on Sunday, 8th December when we shall be bringing gifts for *Lincs Leaving Care* service which is part of Barnardo's. We will be welcoming Becky and Kerri, workers with the charity, who will tell us about the young people they help. Almost all young people in care leave children's homes and foster care by the time they're 18, compared to their peers who stay at home until their mid-20s. The Service supports these young people from the age of 16 to their mid-20s, to make a successful move to living in the community. Practical and emotional assistance is offered to young people who may not have any other source of support.

During December we shall be having a Coffee & Crafts morning; we will have Christmas crafts to buy and Christmas crafts to try. Why not join us on Saturday, 14th December between 10 and 11am and see what Christmas craft you can make?

We have been holding the *Folk Carols service* for 12 years now and welcomed circuit friends and local friends. This year our Folk Carols service will be held on Sunday, 22nd December at 3pm. We always hold a collection for a charity, often a lo-

cal one. Do come and sing original carols and listen to different readings as we prepare to welcome Jesus into our lives once again.

In 2023, 317,430 households in England needed support from councils, the highest number ever recorded. In February 2024, the number of people sleeping rough in England increased by 27%, the largest increase since 2015. Homelessness can happen to anyone – broken relationships, loss of jobs, lots of events can lead to homelessness which is devastating and a blight on our nation. Monks Road has always held events to support Lincoln's own homelessness charity, NOMAD. On Saturday, 25th January we shall be holding a coffee morning to raise funds to help the charity continue its work. Please come and support this vital charity - 25th January, 10-11am.

As we have for the last few years, we will be opening our warm space every Monday morning between 10am to 1pm for those

North Hykeham

We have had a good quarter with well attended services. We thank our Minister and all preachers. Our worship leaders, Dennis and Heather, have been busy and we have enjoyed their services. As many of us who could attend the Circuit Harvest Festival service at Moorland Park.

Alan was excellent; and we were able to catch up with friends from other churches over refreshments. Sadly, because of age, we are struggling with transport and are very grateful to friends and taking taxis'. Revd Alan conducted our own Harvest service; we had a great collection of food donated to the food bank.



Looking ahead we have David Harris from Sheffield taking our service the last Sunday in November. We welcome all friends for David's annual service.

Plans are ahead for decorating the church for Christmas.

Greetings and Best wishes to all and hoping for a Peaceful New Year.

Barbara

Sobering thoughts on November 10th

Looking back over the history of our Chapel last Sunday, it struck me that in 1918 there would be a congregation hoping and praying that the war that had just ended had really been the war to end all wars and that the dramatic slaughter of so many young men had not been in vain

With hindsight we know that it wasn't to be and in a few short years we would be going to war again against Germany and so it goes on

Will humans ever learn? It seems not.

Is it always going to be happening, are there always going to be wars?

Although we are not involved with today's wars, we are fully aware of the brutality of war and are funding them.

Do we need a major mind shift to stop wars for ever?

Or is it part of human nature that there will always be wars?

I don't pretend to have an answer

BUT

we can and should take it to the Lord in prayer.

Help us Lord to learn to live in peace together.



Reepham Methodist Church

We have been very busy since September. We started with our Harvest Festival, when we had a 4.00 p.m. service with the Parish Church, followed by a tea. In October we hosted an excellent concert by Jonti Nowell and friends and the following week we had a Christian Aid lunch (again joined by the Parish Church) at which we raised £170. In the week between, some of us attended the induction of the new vicar, Rev. Jess Bellshaw at the Parish Church. Our monthly tea and fellowship is doing well. We have looked at the themes of Harvest, Creation and the Environment and Remembering with an Advent theme to come in December. Fun Friday continues to thrive and our final one before Christmas will be extended with some entertainment after lunch.

In October we lost one of our long-standing members, Judith Garton. She had been a junior church leader and church steward and for many years organised our prayer chain. Although she had not been able to get to church in recent years, she will be sadly missed.

The Christmas tree will be put up in time for Advent and we look forward to our Advent and Carol services.

Skellingthorpe Methodist Church



By the time you read this we shall be almost at the end of our 130th Anniversary year! Time has flown by since Rev Angy Long came to lead our first celebratory event on 2 June. Since then, we invited Rev David Lawton back to lead a special Harvest Festival service which was followed by a buffet lunch attended by local councillors and representatives of the groups which are regular hirers of our premises. Donations to the Food Bank exceeded our expectations and it took several trips to transport everything to Moorland Park!

We are currently in the throes of 'wreath making' ready for the close of our special year. It really has taken over our lives (and craft rooms!) but, following the appeal in the Autumn issue of Circuit News, a wreath was recently delivered during the Tuesday Craft meeting so we're hoping this is the first of many from other churches in the circuit. We really

need them by 26 November but if they arrive a bit late we'll make room for them. The festival is to be launched at the 10.30am service on 1 December led by Deacon Helen and viewing will be as follows:

Tuesday	3 December	2 – 4 & 7 – 9 (Coffee and Carols)
Saturday	7 December	10 – 12 (Coffee Morning)
Tuesday	10 December	2 – 4
Tuesday	17 December	2- 4 (3 C's Meeting)
Tuesday	24 December	2- 4 (Christmas Eve)

.....and of course during the church services as printed in the preaching plan.

We are currently preparing for the festive season in other ways as well thinking about the future. Sadly, one of our stewards, Eileen, has moved away from the village which has forced us to consider other roles in the church which also need filling. Hopefully there will be a rush of people eager to show interest!

The final coffee morning of the year is on 7 December and is in aid of Youngminds, a mental health charity for young people. The total raised at coffee mornings up to and including November is almost £1300. During the summer we noticed that the only things regularly disappearing from the stall were edible so decided to introduce a new venture, 'Tombola with a difference' where every ticket purchased won a prize. This gave us a guaranteed income and proved to be hilarious as no one really wanted what they won but swops were allowed afterwards. There will be a Christmas themed tombola stall at the December coffee morning so if you read this in time come along and join the fun! The Village Choir is hosting the coffee morning on 4 January so I can't promise tombola on that occasion but please come along and support them as they have been meeting in the chapel schoolroom since they were formed umpteen years ago.

The Card Craft Group has been meeting for a similar length of time on the first Tuesday of the month but up until the November meeting numbers had dropped drastically. Consequently, we have been wondering whether to change meetings to a format similar to that of the 3C's which meet on the third Tuesday. A final decision will be made in the new year.

Meanwhile there is plenty to think about as the festive season approaches

so if you are able, please come and visit the Wreath Festival, pop into the Coffee and Carols by Candlelight evening on 3 December at 7.00pm, the Coffee Morning on 7 December from 10.00 – 12.00 or the Carl Service on 22 December at 3.00pm.

God bless you all this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Pat Robinson



St Columba's Local Ecumenical Partnership

07/12/2024	9am-4pm	Christmas Tree Festival Cake stall, Raffle, Tombola
08/12/2024	3pm	Carol Service followed by tea
25/01/2025	12:30pm	Community Lunch £6 per person
22/03/2025	12:30pm	Community Lunch £6 per person
Tuesday Café	2pm-4pm	£2 tea/coffee. Free refills. Homemade cake (eat in/take away)



St Giles

Our Christmas Fayre will not take place as originally planned. Instead, Christmas related events will have taken place during Free-4-All on Wednesdays and Fridays in November.

We held a Light in the Darkness event on October 31 which proved very popular with local kids and adults with £150 being raised for church funds.

Our quarterly combined service with our friends at St Giles Parish Church took place at the Methodist Church when Lesley Shapcott led the service with Rev Melanie Jackson giving a very interesting and thought-provoking sermon. Rev Juliet Wriglesworth will be leading the next one at the end of December.

The City Council have approved our application for a grant to cover the fencing to surround and pathways within our Sensory Garden. We are hoping that things will start moving in earnest in time for the spring.

Our coffee mornings on Wednesdays and Fridays, part of the Warm Rooms initiative, are proving popular with free bacon butties and toast provided. The Free-4-All and Community Larder are open at the same time so the church can get very busy. Our Monday coffee mornings when visitors come into the more relaxing lounge for coffee, games and chat are also proving to be more popular.

Boys Brigade and Scouts, whose numbers are increasing, are enjoying their summer break before restarting on Wednesday

and Friday evenings. The Night Light Café on Tuesday evenings continues to prove a great help for those with mental health issues and some respite for their carers.



The church is also becoming a popular venue for birthday parties with several bookings in the coming weeks.



SWALLOWBECK

We have been delighted to welcome 2 families bringing children for baptism in the last quarter and look forward to another on 8 December. Nutwood Day Nursery paid us a visit on the Tuesday after our harvest festival and taught us a new harvest song. Our produce was donated to the Foodbank as we reflected that this was the present-day practice of the Old Testament instructions to leave the edges of cornfields for the poor to glean. and have taken our Shoeboxes containing basic treats of toothpaste, shampoo, soap etc. to Central Methodist Church for distribution to eastern Europe. Our church hall has been booked by a local florist for wreath making workshops and the drama students at the university are using it to rehearse the pantomime which they take to care homes and schools. We will also be staging a Christmas tree at St Columba's as part of their Christmas Tree Festival over the weekend of 7-8 December and contributing a festive wreath to Skellingthorpe's Festival of Wreaths during December.

Churches Together in Hykeham and Swallowbeck also joined the monthly Fellowship group meeting on the 3rd Tuesday morning at the Memorial Hall North Hykeham for another collection of tins and packets for the Foodbank, organised by Alive Church, North Hykeham. We are welcomed to St Georges, Swallowbeck at 2pm fortnightly from 20 November, preparing for Christmas on Wednesdays 4 and 18 December

STONES PLACE



The Christmas Fair is on Saturday, 10 December from 2.30-4.30pm. Everyone welcome. Chef Danny, who has given years of service to Stones Place, retired at the end of October and leaves with our thanks and good wishes.



Welton & Dunholme Methodist Church

Everyone enjoyed our harvest festival service at the end of September which was followed by an auction of the fresh produce and then a cooked lunch. Many appreciative thanks to Linda McCree and her helpers for the meal. The auction raised £135 for charity.

An own arrangements cafe church included a presentation by Jenny Atkinson about her recent visit to a Leprosy Mission in Nepal. A successful, 60s evening at the beginning of November raised over £300 for this charity.

A second OA was led by Maureen Sydney from the Lincoln branch of *Safe Families*: a Christian charity which does so much to support vulnerable families in the county. Their office is in

Bailgate Methodist and Maureen is very happy to come and speak to church groups about the work done. She can be contacted via the website.

As ever, we are grateful to Rev. Martin Amery who continues to prepare services for us, when needed, which are delivered by one of the worship leaders.

Looking forward to our Christmas celebrations, all friends across the circuit are invited to our 'Christmas Jumper' coffee morning on Saturday 21st December and our service of readings and carols on Sunday 22nd December at 4.00pm. This will be followed by a faith tea to which all are invited.

Help for Own Arrangements services

I am in the process of producing some services for use in Own Arrangements Services using the accounts of the women in the Bible telling their stories that are in my books.

The first three, based on the wives of the patriarchs in Genesis, are now available.

Please contact me if you would like to make use of them.

Copies of Volume 2 Women of the Old Testament tell their Stories and Volume 3 Women of the Early Church tell their Stories are still available at £5 each. Volume 1 is sold out, but the stories will be included in the scripts of the services.

Margaret Roe

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The Lincolnshire District goes to 3 Generate!



It was a joy once again to be able to take a group from the Lincoln Circuit to 3 Generate at the NEC in Birmingham. We set off from Bailgate Methodist church at 4.30pm on October 4th and returned on Sunday 6th at 3.00pm.

I've been asked by several people what 3 Generate stands for – having been twice now, I can only surmise that it literally means 3 generations gathering together. For example, in our group, one of our young people was accompanied by her grandma.

This is how 3 Generate is described on the Methodist Church website: 3Generate is the children's and youth assembly of the Methodist Church. It aims to create an inclusive and diverse space for the prophetic voice of children and young people to emerge and be heard. It enables them to speak courageously, and listen to God and each other.

Through the 3Generate process, children and young people are equipped to become participants in advocacy, change and growth and have an impact in their local Methodist communities. 3Generate calls the Church to listen to, and be in rela-

tionship and dialogue with and amongst, children and young people, so that change can happen together as a community.

This year the theme for the weekend was 'Wrapped up in God.' The theme emerged from the Gospel reading that was set for the Sunday of 3 Generate.

Mark 10, verses 13 to 16 records Jesus gathering up the little children in his arms and blessing them. Little children that the disciples reject and want to turn away. Little children who had a very low status in Jesus' day. Jesus sees these little children and wraps them up in his loving arms. Everyone who attended 3 Generate, was reminded that God longs to wrap his arms of love around each one of us. As a symbol, we received a blanket or a beanie hat!

A big thanks to the Lincoln Circuit and the Lincolnshire District for funding our trip. 3 Generate gathers again on the 3rd October 2025. Could you encourage a young person to join our group next year?

Rev Juliet

Abba Concert

What a delight to see 150 smiling faces in Central Methodist Church for our Abba Dream tribute show. Pure joy filled the sanctuary from their very first rendition of Waterloo to their encore of Dancing Queen, with dancing in the pews, down the aisles and on the balcony. There was an amazing atmosphere at the fully accessible, truly inclusive event which saw all ages from our community and church share together. The event was organ-

ised by Heather Woodlock and Kathy Rushton with special thanks to Kathy's husband Bill, Pat, Gary and Carolynne. The concert raised essential funds to support the maintenance and operation of our beautiful building as well as contribute to our community outreach projects. Pictured after the show are the organisers celebrating with Rev Richard and Deacon Helen.



Girls' Brigade

In a heartfelt display of respect 4th Lincoln Girls Brigade took part in the poignant march at the cenotaph over Remembrance weekend. The group who travelled to London consisted of three young members and four leaders; they paid their respects to the brave souls who have given their lives in service to their country.

Two of the leaders, Katie Twigg and Hayley Flint marched with their young people and demonstrated their commitment to honouring the fallen and educating the younger generation about the importance of Remembrance. The event serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by countless individuals in the pursuit of peace and freedom.

The 4th Lincoln Girls Brigade's participation in Remembrance shows the dedication to community service and the importance of remembering our history as well as women in war. Their actions serve as a beacon of hope and respect, illuminating the path for future generations to follow.



Keyla - seeing Prince William was an overwhelming experience.

We built a good rapport with the Veterans in the crowd and one I'd seen spotted me after and said hello.

Kiera - my favourite part was that Prince William ensured he gave all of the representatives eye contact; it made our group feel valued and seen. I also enjoyed making friends in the crowd.

I felt honoured to be a part of Remembrance marching with the Veterans.

Hayley - it was an overwhelming experience to be a part of the march past the cenotaph for Remembrance. It is truly a once in a lifetime experience and I am grateful for Girls Brigade Central Office giving our young people at 4th Lincoln Girls Brigade this opportunity

Katie - I enjoyed the whole atmosphere and meeting new Girls Brigade members and talking all things Girls Brigade

Isabel - I enjoyed meeting other Girls Brigade groups. It was great to be able to march with the bands

It was overwhelming and emotional to clap for the Veterans and thank them for their service



Sally - My favourite part was the moment the silence occurred. It went fully silent you could hear a pin drop, part way through a leaf fell from a tree which made a noise as it hit the ground which made a noise and people turned to look due to the noise.

Alison - my favourite part of Remembrance was meeting fellow veterans in the crowd



Christmas Events

Date	Church	Event
Sun 1st Dec	Skellingthorpe	10.30am Festival of Wreaths
Tue 3rd Dec	Skellingthorpe	2-4pm Festival of Wreaths
Tue 3rd Dec	Skellingthorpe	7-9pm Coffee and Carols by Candlelight
Sat 7th Dec	Skellingthorpe	10am-12noon Coffee morning
Sat 7th Dec	St Columba's	9am - 4pm Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 8th Dec	Monks Road	10.30am Gifts for Lincs Leaving Care service
Sun 8th Dec	St Columba's	3pm Carol Service followed by a Christmas Tea
Sun 8th Dec	Welton & Dunholme	10.30am Christmas Praise service
Tue 10th Dec	Skellingthorpe	2-4pm Festival of Wreaths
Sat 14th Dec	Central	Christmas Tree festival/We finish with Carols by candlelight at 4pm
Sat 14th Dec	Monks Road	10 and 11am. Coffee and crafts morning
Sat 14th Dec	St Giles	7pm Lindum Ladies Choir
Sun 15th Dec	Cherry Willingham	Annual Carol service at the Grand Luce Court care home.
Sun 15th Dec	St Giles	10.30am Carol Service led by Revd Juliet Wriglesworth
Tue 17th Dec	Skellingthorpe	2-4pm Festival of Wreaths
Thu 19th Dec	Cherry Willingham	We join with the Vine and Anglican Churches to lead Carols on the Parade
Sat 21st Dec	Welton & Dunholme	10-12, Christmas jumper coffee morning
Sun 22nd Dec	Monks Road	3pm. Folk Carols service
Sun 22nd Dec	Skellingthorpe	3pm Carol service
Sun 22nd Dec	Welton & Dunholme	10.30am morning service as usual
Sun 22nd Dec	Welton & Dunholme	4pm Carol service followed by Faith tea
Tue 24th Dec	Skellingthorpe	2-4pm Festival of Wreaths
Wed 25th Dec	St Giles	9.30am Christmas Day service led by Rev Canon Angy Long
Wed 25th Dec	Welton & Dunholme	9.30am Christmas Day service
Sun 29th Dec	Welton & Dunholme	10.30am, morning service as usual
Sat 4th Jan	Skellingthorpe	10am-12noon Coffee morning
Sat 25th Jan	Monks Road	10-11am. Coffee morning in aid of NOMAD

*Unto Us
a Child is Born*





The First Lincolnshire Farmers' Carol Service

**Sunday 22nd December 3 pm
at Bailgate Methodist Church,
Lincoln, LN1 3AR**

Traditional Christmas carols

**Readings by friends from the
farming community**

**Music from Lincoln
musicians & singers**

With a visit from Santa Claus.

Everyone Welcome!



Calendar Dates - Winter 2024-2025

Sunday	1st Dec	Advent- First Sunday
Saturday	21st Dec	December Solstice
Sunday	22nd Dec	3pm Rural & Agricultural Chaplaincy Carol Service at Bailgate Methodist Church
Tuesday	24th Dec	Christmas Eve
Wednesday	25th Dec	Christmas Day
Thursday	26th Dec	Boxing Day
Tuesday	31st Dec	New Year's Eve
Wednesday	1st Jan	New Year's Day
Sunday	5th Jan	Twelfth Night
Monday	6th Jan	Epiphany
Monday	27th Jan	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Friday	14th Feb	Valentine's Day
Saturday	1st Mar	St David's Day
Tuesday	4th Mar	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday	5th Mar	Ash Wednesday



**Wesley's Chapel,
Raithby by Spilsby**

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 1st December 2024
3.00 pm
led by Revd Graham Miles
Music by Jonathan Nowell



The Churches of
Monks Road and
the Salvation Army
Band invite
everyone to Carols
in the Arboretum
on Sunday
December 15th at
2.30 pm. This
event will be held
at the Band-
stand. There will
be a collection for
the Nomad Centre.

St Giles Methodist Church Lincoln

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT
BY**

LINDUM LADIES' CHOIR

SATURDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2024
at 7.00 pm



**ADMISSION BY
DONATION for CHURCH FUNDS**

REFRESHMENTS AND RAFFLE

Musical Director: Nick Perry
Accompanist: Simon Clarke

PRAYING TOGETHER

1 Holy and gracious God, by way of creation, you have brought us into being. By way of the cross, you have brought us into your kingdom. By way of the resurrection you have restored us to life. Amen.

Macrina, deaconess and teacher (c.329-379)

2 It is to you, O God of glory, that we come. It is on your mercy that we rely. It is to you, O Lamb enthroned that we draw near, in your salvation that we trust, in your peace that we rest. Amen.

John Haime, Methodist itinerant (1708-1784)

3 Blessed is your cross, O Jesus, way for the lost, guide for the seeker and strength for the weak. Blessed is your cross, O Jesus, healing for the sick, freedom for the slave and clothing for the naked. Amen.

African hymn (10th century)

4 Look with divine pity, O God, on the pains of your whole family, and let the passion of Christ and his infinite love make fruitful for good the tribulations of the innocent, the sufferings of the sick, and the sorrowing of the bereaved. Amen.

A French prayer (1915)

5 Blessed are those, O Christ, in whose souls, you are constantly born, those in whose lives you are daily crucified and those in whose hearts you are risen for ever. Amen.

Jerome (c. 342-420)

6 Grant us, O God, to pass each day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain, that reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may again praise you, the eternal God, blessed over all things now and forever. Amen.

Mozarabic Sacramentary (10th century)

7 Let us love your holy word, O God, anxious to obey its commandments, eager to comprehend its meaning, longing to be guided by its precepts, yearning to hear the voice that speaks through its pages. Amen.

Walter James, Wesleyan minister (1879-1908)

8 Out of the depths, O God, we wait for your wisdom. Out of the silence, O God, we listen for your voice. Out of the heavens, O God, we wait for your gifts. Amen.

Kikuyu people, Kenya

PRAYING TOGETHER

9 Attend our steps, O Lord, as we sing your praise. Direct our paths as we become more than conquerors. Open our mouths as we proclaim the good news of the gospel. Amen.

Henry Martyn (1781-1812)

10 Dwell within us, O Christ, as we go about our work in quietness and peace; rejoice with us in the work you have given us to do; bless us in the love you have called us to share, and be present in the message you have summoned us to speak. Amen.

Isabella Gilmore, Pioneer Anglican deaconess (1842-1923)

11 Let us depend above all things, O Christ, on your grace, desire in all things your love, rejoice at all times in your presence and delight through all undertakings in your glory. . Amen.

John William Fletcher, John Wesley's designated successor (1729-1785)

12 By your beauty, O Lord, transform our poverty of soul. By your love tame the waywardness of our passions. By your grace renew the yearnings of our heart. Amen.

Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510)

13 God of grace, good beyond all that is good, fair beyond all that is fair and loving beyond all that is loving; grant us to be of one mind in our faith, of one hope in our calling, and of one heart in our loving; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dionysius of Alexandria (c.200-c.265)

14 Flood my heart with your presence, O God, my soul with your Spirit and my being with your light; that others looking upon my life may see only their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

15 By the sorrow you suffered when all the powers of your heart failed you, O Jesus have mercy on us. In our days of darkness help us and in our hours of weakness strengthen us that we do not lose hold of you in this life, nor fail to enjoy you in the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373)

16 Saviour Christ, lifting up your hands perpetually on behalf of all humankind, by your Spirit, breathe such love into our prayers, that they may be taken into yours, and prevail with yours, for your own name's sake. Amen.

Jean-Jacques Olier (1608-1657)

PRAYING TOGETHER

17 Beyond all thought of wealth; beyond all hope of honour; beyond all joy in words, I pray, O God, that my whole life long may be my receiving of pure love from you and my having pure love for you. Amen.

Chaitanya, Indian mystic (1486-1532)

18 Let us think for ourselves, O God, independent within our conscience, faithful in our discipleship, devout in our prayers and patient amidst our difficulties. Amen.

Pandita Mary Ramabai, pioneer Indian educator (1858-1922)

19 Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you. In the depth of your mercy, heal us. In the tenderness of your love, remake us. In the compassion of your grace, forgive us. For the beauty of heaven, prepare us. Amen.

Anselm (c. 1033-1109)

20 To you, O God most high, we lift our hearts, voicing our praise, confessing our sins and seeking your pardon. To you we come for grace, to you we render our thanks and to you we ascribe all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

21 O Lord Christ, wisdom of God we praise you, Word everlasting we bless you, Light undying we glorify you, Fountain of mercy we adore you, Joy of the saints we worship you. Amen.

Clement of Alexandria (150-c.215)

22 Let us be lost in your will, O God, lost in the doing of it, lost in the presence of your Spirit, lost in your redeeming love and lost in you forever. Amen.

Mary Porteous, Primitive Methodist itinerant (1783-1861)

23 Be strength to our hearts, O Love most powerful. Be goodness to our taste, O Love most sweet. Be life to our souls, O Love most dear, Be comfort and support to us, O Love most faithful. Be endurance and hope to us, O Love most victorious. Amen.

Gertrude of Helfta (1256-1302)

24 Be fruitful within us, O God and fill our words with your love, our lives with your glory, and our labour with your blessing. Amen.

Ann Gilbert, Cornish Methodist preacher (c. 1735-1790)

PRAYING TOGETHER

25 Look upon your servants, O Lord, weak in faith, but asking for your strength; cold in heart, but seeking the warmth of your love; assailed by doubt but longing to trust you; abounding in sin yet begging to be filled with your righteousness; now and forever. Amen.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

26 In pilgrimage, O Lord, show us the path to be taken; in commitment, the will to be obeyed; in service, the cost to be borne; and in faithfulness, the crown to be won. Amen.

Ann Mason, Bible Christian minister (1797-1826)

27 Give us a new heart, O God, free enough to live by faith, brave enough to endure in hope and generous enough to love without limit. Amen.

El Salvador, source untraced

28 Nothing is distant from you, O God, with whom we have no fear, by whom we are raised up and in whom our hope is fulfilled. Amen.

Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo (332-387)

29 Let us be one, O Lord, in our praise of you, one in our prayers to you, one in our love for you and one through Christ, in our coming to you. Amen.

Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35-c. 107)

30 Grant to those who seek you, O Lord, the gift of your kingdom, the comfort of your grace and the vision of your glory. Amen.

Book of Common Order (1562)

31 Give to us, O Christ, a heart with yearnings deeper than the world understands, a poverty that only the Spirit knows, and a peace that only those who surrender to you can find. Amen.

Priscilla Lydia Sellon, Restorer of Anglican Community Life (1821-1876)

Prayers taken from: "Praise and Protest", Methodist Prayer Handbook 2024/2025

