SHORELINE

Skegness Group of Parishes: St Matthew, Skegness; St Clement, Skegness; St Mary, Winthorpe; SS Peter and Paul, Ingoldmells; St Nicholas, Addlethorpe



Who's Who in the Ministry Team

Rural Dean Canon Terry Steele

Rector Reverend Richard Holden

Permanent Deacon Reverend Christine Anderson

Reader Linda Allaway

Reader Jean Smith
-assisted by our Lay Ministry Team, Churchwardens
and supporting our various Chaplaincies in the
Workplace, Hospital, Schools and
Families and Bereavement.

Parish Secretary Gwen Drury

Contacts: Parish Office open 9am – Noon Mon-Fri Tel: 01754 763875

email: info@skegness-anglican.org.uk web page: www.skegness-anglican.org

To book a baptism or a wedding, come to the Parish Office at St Matthew's Church on Wednesday 7.00pm - 8.00pm or on Saturday 10.00am - 11.00am

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Would you like to place an advertisement in this magazine?

Over the next few months we hope to make a feature of the inside pages as advertising space. We would like it to be a directory for local businesses and trades people.

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All In The Month of March

It was:

200 years ago:- on 5 March 1817 that Sir Austen Henry Layard, French-born British archaeologist, traveller, and diplomat, was born. He is best known for excavating the ancient Mesopotamian cities of Nimrud and Niniveh and discovering the library of Ashurbanipal.

175 years ago:- on 9 March 1842 that Verdi's opera Nabucco was performed for the first time, at La Scala in Milan. It was the opera that established Verdi's reputation.

100 years ago:- on 6 March 1917 that Frankie Howard, British comedian and comic actor, was born. Best known for his role in the TV series Up Pompeii! And as a member of the Carry On... team.

75 years ago:- on 24 March 1942 that during World War 2, the national loaf was introduced in Britain. It was made from wholemeal flour, and most people did not like it.

70 years ago:- on I March 1947 that The International Monetary Fund began operating.

60 years ago- on 10 March 1957 that Osama ben Laden, Saudi-Arabian-born terrorist leader, was born. Founder of the militant Islamist organisation al-Qaeda, he masterminded numerous atrocities against the USA and other Western powers. (Died 2011.)

Also 60 years ago:- on 25 March 1957 that the Treaty of Rome was signed, creating the European Economic Community which was founded on I January 1958. (It was renamed the European Community in 1993 and was dissolved in 2009, having been replaced by the European Union.)

50 years ago:- on 18 March 1967 that the super-tanker SS Torrey Canyon hit a rock on a reef between the Cornish mainland and the Isles of Scilly while attempting to take a shortcut to South Wales. 32 million gallons of crude oil were spilled – the worst spill in UK history. Hundreds of miles of coastland were affected, and 15,000 sea birds died.

25 years ago:- on 19 March 1992 that Buckingham Palace announced the separation of the Duke and Duchess of York – Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson. (They had married in 1986.)

20 years ago:- on 6 March 1997 that Queen Elizabeth II launched the official Royal website: www.royal.gov.uk .

Also 20 years ago:- on 15 March 1997 that the British girl band Spice Girls became the first group in history to reach number 1 in the charts with every one of their first four singles.

15 years ago:- on 29 March 2002 that the Second Intifada – Operation Defensive Shield – began when Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah was raided and placed under siege by Israeli defence forces. It was the largest military operation in the West Bank since the Six-Day War in 1967.



Spaces

What do you do if you are having a bad day? I'm not talking about depression, just the need to get rid of the unwelcome gremlins off your back or out of your head. For many of us the answer is to find a bit of space away from everything and everybody, if only for a short time. I don't know what you do, but at one time my answer was to go down to the beach and simply begin to walk. If you walk south to north, the amusements and hotels are on your left; on your right, the North Sea is rolling in, lapping onto the sand. It's almost as if you are walking over a well-kept highway. Ahead of you is the pier, now much shorter than it was many years ago. The picture helps to put oneself in perspective - where one is – where one has come from; one's place, perhaps, in time and space. Here we are, the most important people on God's earth, we tend to think, and yet this scene evokes all sorts of thoughts. As I walked along that sandy highway, the gremlins had no chance and quickly fell away.

Now, clearly, we don't all have the chance to drop everything and walk by the seashore. On a day to day level, we all have our special place in which we find refuge and distraction from those difficult times.

I've always been interested in the spaces that other people carve out for themselves, spaces that are appropriate to their longings. If you look at large churches or cathedrals, you realise that even they are large, decorated collections of spaces, lit by daylight through multi-coloured stained glass — an arrangement of spaces enclosed by stone by means of which people throughout the ages have become that little bit more aware of the presence of God.

If churches and cathedrals are the public spaces that we provide for society's experience of God, then prayer is the private space we carve out of our busy lives.

The public space that can be, for example an open church, is available to all who want that private space in which to rid themselves of the gremlins, to perhaps be aware of the presence of God. The opportunity is there, certainly here in Skegness.

Lent is upon us and our thoughts turn towards the Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus; during this time, come in, light a candle, sit quietly, pray in whatever way you like. The space is here for you now.

Reverend Christine Anderson



The Bishop of Grantham

Dear Friends

As I sit down to write I am already beginning to turn over in my mind the words of the hymn that I am going to be using and praying throughout Lent. The season itself will have begun by the time that you receive this letter, but I hope that it will not be too late to ponder Cowper's sentiments once again and for us all to draw some inspiration from them.

He begins:
'O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

He is describing loss and he is saddened by it: 'Where is the blessedness I knew, When first I saw the Lord?'

Perhaps this is a feeling that we might all share at different times in our lives. Pressures crowd in, tragic events dominate the news, God himself can appear to be very distant, and as for the Church...?!!

With Cowper, we may well say: 'Where is the soul refreshing view, Of Jesus and His Word?'

But I hope that with Cowper we shall have the courage and the strength to hang on, through a time that he describes as being an 'aching void', and also with him to look seriously at ourselves, to the extent that we tear even our 'dearest idols' from their thrones.

If we are able to do these things, then there will be light at the end of the tunnel, and the closer walk with God that we sought at the beginning.

Lent, then, is the time for having the courage to allow ourselves to enter the 'aching void' and to face our 'dearest idols', whatever they may be – things such as our dangerous dependencies or our covetousness or our self-righteousness or our sense of entitlement. These are difficult things, as I know in my own life, but they are very human things, and really can be called idols, I believe.

Lent has become a time in which, rather than giving something up, people have recently seen the value of taking something on. They give time to be good neighbours, for example, and don't fixate about refraining from chocolate or sweets, or whatever. I absolutely applaud this tendency to 'take on'.

However, I also think the older, sterner, discipline of Lent has a great deal to commend it. By this, I don't mean simply the discipline that involves giving something up, but the discipline that is involved in taking a long hard look at oneself and at the world. This discipline, which can be uncomfortable, is to do with facing the void and tackling our idols.

It is what I shall be trying to do this Lent. Perhaps you might join me?

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you: rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless you this month,

Bishop Nicholas

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Skegness & District Dementia Support Group

Coffee Morning
1st Friday In Every Month
The Methodidt Church Hall, Algitha Road, Skegness
10.00am til 12 noon
Tea/Coffee and Social Events







There is hardly an aspect of all our lives that isn't touched by politics, whether we like it or not. But the stuff that makes the most profound difference is not always what's on the front pages of the national newspapers. When Skegness faced the threat of a tidal surge in January, I was keenly aware that the long-term effects of what the BBC and Sky would cover for a few days could be with us for many months.

My own father-in-law was a teacher in Boston when the last tidal surge hit, and I saw the damage done to his classrooms that lasted long after the water had receded. The impact is not just physical: it's emotional and to educations, careers and communities.

We should all be grateful, therefore, that in the more recent episode Skegness planned successfully for the worst and in the end saw little beyond the disruption of inconvenience. It was, in the best sense, a dry run. A real event is inevitable, even if it is hopefully not for many decades. Let us hope that when it does come, warnings are heeded. And in the meantime, let's make sure we make the most of all the joys of living by or near the coast - but sign up for the flood warnings too!



Lent Message from the Rector Reverend Richard Holden

Lent is a special time of the Christian year. A time for quiet and reflection before the busyness of Easter. A time to make space for prayer and let the voice of God whispering in the wilderness touch your heart and soul. We walk with Christ into the desert, we (hopefully) give up something that we like but don't necessarily need. Something that we notice the absence of in our daily lives.

There has been a move towards doing something that will improve us, learning another language, reading a particular book or something of the like. I don't think this is the right way at Lent it should be about giving up something especially for we who have so much in our modern technologically advanced world.

Christ was taken in to the wilderness by the Holy Spirit to prepare Him for what was to come and so our journey is one where we attempt to be more Christ like. The church reflects the sombre feeling of this time of preparation and the imminence of Easter. We don't sing the Gloria in Lent and our music is subdued.

The wilderness can be a hard place to be and though some of us choose to walk in the wilderness during Lent for some the journey is one that is forced on them through circumstances. The wilderness can mean different things to each of us. For some it is a desert, a place devoid of water and vegetation for others it can be the lack of the presence of someone that we love or have loved or perhaps a life that has not been what we thought it would be. The wilderness is a place that is different for each of us and at times we all have to walk in hard places that we do not choose. For some of us that wilderness may seem to be what the world is bringing with BREXIT and the arrival of President Trump, elections in Italy, France and Belgium bringing a change in the way that we do things. There is a change in who and what we are as a nation. Uncertain times, times of change.

When we walk into the wilderness, in whatever form that is for you, remember that with Christ in the wilderness was the Holy Spirit of God and that same Holy Spirit is sent to you by God the Father and Jesus Christ to walk alongside you whether you choose to go into the wilderness or whether the wilderness came to you.

May God bless you and walk alongside you. Richard



Mirror, Mirror on the Well how do you see yourself this Lent?

Somebody asked a Christian friend why he was eating doughnuts, when he had given them up for Lent! He answered, 'At the bakers I told God, that if He wanted me to buy doughnuts, He should provide a parking space in front. On the eighth time around, there it was!' Rather than seeing Lent simply as a time to give things up, let's use it intentionally for self-examination, reading Scripture, penitence, fasting and prayer.

At Jesus' baptism, God's voice says, 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' (Luke 3:22). The Holy Spirit then leads Jesus into the wilderness, where we find Him coming to terms with who He is. Satan's temptations challenge Jesus in key three areas of His identity: social action, political power, and religious identity (Luke 4: I-I3). It is as though Jesus looked into the mirror at Himself to discern what kind of Saviour He would be.

We can also think of Lent as an opportunity to hold a mirror up to ourselves and ask the question, 'who am I? It is a season of honest encounter with whom we are, what we've done, and the world in which we live. How will you keep the Lent period of 40 days running up until Easter? What will you see when you hold up the mirror to yourself? Alongside taking time to read Scripture, study a Christian book and pray with fasting, why not give up texting for Lent and simply talk on the phone; commit yourself to just working 40 hours a week or spend five minutes each day in silence!

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.



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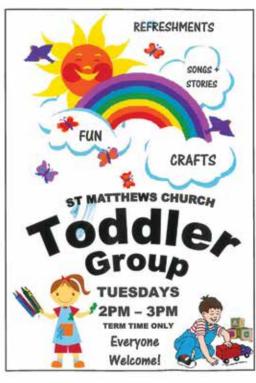
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March Word Search

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?



lent spiritual easter preparation fasting prayer desert selfdenial repentance seeking finding growing mothers love care nurture learning teaching disciples worldwide flowers thankyou nursing family



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Community Diary Dates March 2017

We hope you are enjoying reading Shoreline each month. We are working to improve the magazine each month and we would appreciate any feedback from you.

Each month we show the Church Diary Dates. We would like to have a page of Community Diary Dates but we need you to tell us those dates. If you know of any event that is happening in the area please do let us know so that we can add it to the diary. The more people who know the more support you will get at your event!

Wednesday 8 March 10.30 am - 12.00 noon

Butterfly Hospice Coffee Morning St Matthew's Church, Skegness

Tuesday 28 March I pm - 3 pm Tea with T.E.D. at The Storehouse, Skegness

This event is free to over 50's and gives you the opportunity to come and say hello to the T.E.D. Area

Co-ordinator for Skegness Elisabeth Wright.

So why not pop in and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee,

cake and a chat!



One of my churchwardens is a stickler for Health and Safety' ...

Church Diary Dates March 2017

Friday 10th	10.00 am - 12 noon St Matthew Skegness, Pop in for a coffee and a chat
Saturday 11th	4pm – St Matthew Skegness, Messy Church
Sunday 12th	9.30 am St Mary Winthorpe service of Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	9.30 am St Clement Skegness service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 12th	11.00 am St Matthew Skegness service of Holy Communion
Sunday 12th	11.00 am St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells, Morning Prayer
Tuesday 14th	10.30 am St Clement Skegness service of Holy Communion
Tuesday 14th	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm St Matthew Skegness, Toddlers Group
Wednesday 15th	10.45 am St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells service of Holy Communion
Wednesday 15th	10.00 am - 1.00 pm St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells, Pop in for a coffee and a chat
Thursday 16th	2.00 pm St Clements Community Hall, Skegness, New Horizons
Friday 17th	10.00 am - 12 noon at St Matthew Skegness, Pop in for a coffee and a chat
Sunday 19th	9.30 am St Clement Skegness service of Holy Communion
Sunday 19th	11.00 am St Matthew Skegness service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th	11.00 a St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells service of Holy Communion
Tuesday 21st	10.30 am St Clement Skegness service of Holy Communion
Tuesday 21st	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm St Matthew Skegness, Toddlers Group
Wednesday 22nd	10.45 am St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells service of Holy Communion
Wednesday 22nd	10.00 am - 1.00 pm St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells, Pop in for a coffee and a chat
Friday 24th	10.00 am - 12 noon at St Matthew Skegness, Pop in for a coffee and a chat
Sunday 26th	9.30 am St Mary Winthorpe service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th	9.30 am St Nicholas Addlethorpe service of Holy Communion
Sunday 26th	9.30 am-St Clement Skegness service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th	11.00 am St Matthew Skegness, service of Morning Prayer
Sunday 26th	11.00 am St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells service of Holy Communion
Tuesday 28th	10.30 am St Clement Skegness service of Holy Communion
Tuesday 28th	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm St Matthew Skegness, Toddlers Group
Wednesday 29th	10.45 am St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells service of Holy Communion
Wednesday 29th	10.00 am $-$ 1.00 pm St Peter & St Paul Ingoldmells, Pop in for a coffee and a chat
Friday 30th	10.00 am - 12 noon at St Matthew Skegness, Pop in for a coffee and a chat

