



Your local churches

St Andrew's United Church, Kirton in Lindsey
www.standrewsunitedchurch.org.uk
St Radegund's Church, Grayingham
www.achurchnearyou.com/grayingham-st-radegund



Ministry Contacts: Jan 2025 - KIRTON

- ☎ 01724 647789 **The Revd David Swannack** (Anglican Vicar)
- ☎ 07395 453246 **The Revd Robert Roberts** (Methodist Minister)
- ☎ 01652 648846 **The Revd Preb Dr Michael Sheard** (Anglican, retired)
- ☎ 01652 649365 **Dr Pat Frankish** (Baptist Deacon; Anglican Lay Reader)

Ministry Contact: Jan 2025 - GRAYINGHAM

- ☎ 07738 356048 **The Revd Charles Thody** (Anglican Priest in Charge)

Other enquiries

Church Council Secretary, Kirton, 01652 648846
 Church hall bookings, Kirton, 01652 648573
 Church Warden, Kirton, Dr Pat Frankish, 01652 649365
 Church Council Secretary, Grayingham, 01652 640157
 Church Warden, Grayingham, Mr Clive Marshall, 01652 648125

SAFEGUARDING (Kirton) 01652 640740
SAFEGUARDING (Gray'm) 01652 640157

Baptism bookings (Kirton) – 07776 487791
 Wedding bookings (Kirton) – 01652 648846
 Funerals (Kirton) – 01652 648573

Worship in our buildings in Jan/Feb 2025

- St Andrew's United Church, Kirton, 11am Sunday; 9.30 every Wednesday
- St Radegund's, Grayingham, 9.30 1st Sun HC; other Sundays 9am

Please visit our websites/Facebook or phone one of the contact numbers above for other information about our churches and activities.

Join us for Worship on Zoom: every Sunday at 9.30am

* To join – on computer, tablet or phone – contact heather.bunker@btinternet.com

St Andrew's United Church 4th SUNDAY every month, FAMILY SERVICE 11am

SEBASTIAN'S PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS (page 55) Year Ahead Crossword Solution

Across: 1. January; 3. April; 7. September; 9. February; 10. December
 Down: 1. July; 2. August; 4. November; 5. June; 6. October; 8. March; 11. May

Step Ladder – a possible solution: SHOP, STOP, STEP, SEEP, PEEP, PEER, PEAR, YEAR

Odd one out – Answers:

1. riser – all the others are parts of a shoe. A riser is part of a staircase.
2. larch – the only European conifer that loses its needles in the winter.
3. otter – the others are rodents.
4. brass – an alloy of copper and zinc. The rest are pure metals.
5. Philemon – Philemon is a letter in the New Testament. The others are books of the Old Testament.
6. spider – the rest are insects. Spiders are arachnids.
7. wood – all the others are non-renewable fossil fuels.
8. tomato – is a fruit. All the others are vegetables.
9. penguin – the rest are British garden birds. Penguins live in the Southern hemisphere (apart from those in a zoo!).
10. Barmouth – the others are English sea side resorts. Barmouth is in Wales.

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Copy: Stan 16 Jan, Ian 18 Feb

We are sorry that rising costs have forced us to raise the price in 2025.

in a **NUTSHELL** 
 news, views, ideas from your local church 2025 Jan / Feb

Hope for 2025?

Today the world faces terrible threats: climate meltdown, global war, another pandemic – and more. So is there hope as we enter this new year?

2.5 billion people, a third of the world's population, claim to be Christian: followers of Jesus, who preached peace, justice, love for all. What potential for healing a broken world!

The trouble is that many of these billions are 'passive' Christians waiting, perhaps, for God to reveal himself again and 'do something' to save us from ourselves, or to protect our particular 'bubble' – our own family, community or nation.

Nazi Germany considered itself an overwhelmingly Christian nation. In a census in 1939, 54% of Germans identified as Protestant Christian and 41% Catholic, but out of a population of 65 million only a handful (some 3,000) were in the so-called Confessing Church which resisted the poisonous nationalism of Hitler.

Today 71% of the population of the USA claims to be Christian, and yet the people of the USA have elected a president whose focus is guiltless and unlimited consumption for the US, no matter what



'Well, last year I kicked gambling. The odds are 3 to 1 the new year will be a good one.'

the cost to the planet or to other nations. And across the Atlantic, the leaders of the Russian Orthodox Church are vocal supporters of the war that President Putin has unleashed on Ukraine.

BUT Christians believe there *is* HOPE!

God is *real*. The Holy Spirit is active – speaking to and working through his people – *that is those who will listen carefully to him* – leading them to action; granting them vision, courage, guidance; offering them power to be his instruments of peace, of healing, of reconciliation.

So for us the question is: *Will we allow that same Holy Spirit to mobilise us in God's mission for love and justice in 2025?* Our local community, our nation, our world will be transformed if we do.

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Write to *Point of View* (max 300 words) at editor.nutshell@btinternet.com

INSIDE Sebastian's PUZZLE CORNER page 55  Sebastian feels grumpy... find him on on p.54 

Memories from Advent 2024

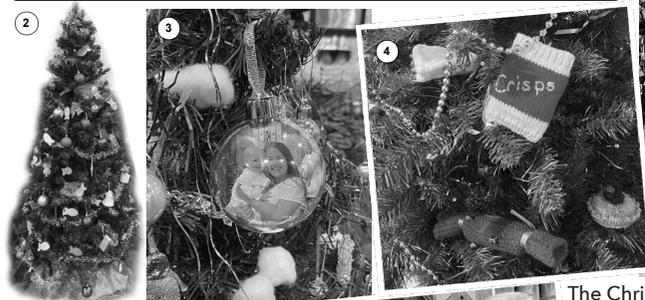
Christingle 8 December



(above) 12 December
Kirton Primary School
Christmas Concert

Below 1. Michelle Clarke-Edwards
ran a children's corner at the
Christmas Tree Festival.

Christmas Tree Festival 14-15 December



The Christmas Tree Festival was a great success with over 150 visitors in the two days, and a splendid display of trees and window decorations. Our thanks go to many people and organisations, but especially the organiser, Heather Bunker.

Pictures (cont'd) 2. St Andrew's Tree.
3. Crystal balls with photos of children baptised in 2024 decorated one tree.
4. Julia from the Social Team knitted a display of Christmas food for their tree!
5. Some of our visitors had more than two legs!

6. Thanks to Alison Broadbent, for her wonderful organ recitals at the Festival, and for playing at our Carol Service and Midnight Communion!

Christmas Eve Carol Service



St Andrew's church was packed out for the Christmas Eve Carol Service. The theme was *Journeys*. 3 children and 2 adult 'volunteers' (pictured left) went in search of the places in the Christmas story. It was a fun backdrop to the familiar readings and carols. Of course, the singing was splendid! (see also page s5)

For a bigger selection of our Christmas pictures in full colour see the February *Nutshell*. Single copies £1 from Paynes Chemist

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – BOOK THESE DATES

Pray with Women around the World in St Andrew's on 7 March at 2.15pm

For a century, the Guiding Principle and 'starting point' of the **World Day of Prayer** has been *Christian women*. Too often, women and girls have been silenced and oppressed, making this year's theme chosen by the women of the Cook Islands particularly relevant.

Our sisters from the Cook Islands have spent the last few years delving into the theme: 'I Made You Wonderful', based on Psalm 139:1-18.

The 2025 theme is based on the fact that each one of us was made with care and love by God. When we truly appreciate this, everything in our life changes and we begin to radiate and shine from within. We also learn how to treat

every other person as made wonderful by God.

The message that we, as women and girls, are 'fearfully and wonderfully' made in the image of God reinforces our movement's support for women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.



*** Please join us on Friday 7 March for the World Day of Prayer service. It will end in time for you to meet children from school.**

Family
pancake
party

on 4 March
4.30-7.00 pm

all-age games, prizes:
pancakes from 5pm.
FREE. Donations welcome



'Heaven and Earth'

This is the theme of this year's display in St Andrew's church, as part of the West Lindsey Churches Festival.

We invite organisations or individuals to contribute a floral display or suggest an activity that can be set up without taking away from the beauty and history of the church building.

So put your imaginations to work! And please come during the weekend to see the church, the archives (with an expert to answer your questions), and enjoy a conducted tour of the tower.

For info: janesheard.82@btinternet.com

Book the date now
Sat-Sun, 10-11 May

Take the tree down!

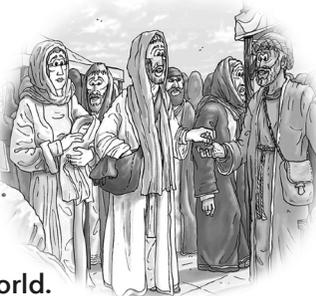
Christians divide their year into 'seasons', like Lent, the six weeks leading up to Easter. We have just gone through the 'season' of Advent, four Sundays before Christmas. After Christmas we move to Epiphany on 6 January, and remember how the Wise Men visited the infant Jesus. (Orthodox Churches also mark the baptism of Jesus on this day.)

In some places, Christmas decorations are removed the day before Epiphany. Other people leave them up through the month of January until the day called 'Candlemas', which is also known as the 'Presentation of Christ', recalling how Jesus was brought into the Temple in Jerusalem by his parents. *Find the rules that Jesus's parents obeyed when they did this, in your Bible in Leviticus chapter 12, to understand this picture* ▷

Candlemas is on 2 February, 40 days after Christmas. Before electric light, this was when people brought their candles for the year into church to have them blessed, and to remember Jesus, the Light of the World.



'You don't have to smile that much when we take down the tree.'



Epiphany in St Andrew's



Above: the full nativity tableau (with Wise Men) in the Memorial Chapel in January 2023.

In St Andrew's church our Nativity tableau, which is in the Memorial Chapel, will remain until Candlemas, but on 6 January the Wise Men (and camel) will move from the window-sill in the Lady Chapel to join the other figures, to unite the Christmas and Epiphany stories and traditions.

Photo above:

The Wise Men (and camel) on the window-still in the Lady Chapel before Christmas 2024. They were there at the Christmas Tree Festival and at the Carol Service.

Incommunicado

Jane Sheard considers 'faults on the line'

We once had a weird experience on moving to a new church. With a one-year-old child, we were delighted with improvements made to our manse (vicarage) before we moved in – particularly the 'inner porch', fitted to help eliminate the draughts that blew through the front door.

We had plenty to do to settle in – which may be why we didn't notice the lack of callers. On Day 3, one of our Stewards came to our back door. 'I've been ringing your doorbell for ages,' she said, 'and there was no reply.' 'And yesterday,' she went on, 'I tried to phone. I tried several times, but you didn't answer.'

She sounded quite miffed, but we hadn't heard the phone or the doorbell! Moreover, the phone seemed to be working: we could make outgoing calls with no difficulty.

Over the next week, we received a number of similar complaints. We were beginning to worry that people must think we were deliberately ignoring them. Not a very good start to a new posting!

We soon discovered why the doorbell was not doing its job. The bell had been left inside the new inner porch and could

only be heard very faintly, close to. It was quickly moved – and at least we could now respond to callers at the front door.

The phone took longer to work out. A few weeks later, while trying to sort out the office, left in a dreadful mess by the removal firm, we moved the filing cabinet. Lo and behold, it had been put down on one of the phone wires, literally 'cutting us off'! We lifted it off the wire and normal communications were resumed!

A new year

A new year traditionally gives us all the opportunity to re-evaluate our lives, including communicating with one another. It's very easy to put up 'barriers' even to family and friends. So is there perhaps a 'filing cabinet' in your life that needs moving?

What a difference it would make if we lifted that heavy filing cabinet of



I'm talking to Mother . . . The telephone's broken!

anger, self-absorption, perhaps envy, off the wires, to be 'reconciled' with former friends or family members!

God talk?

Then there's a spiritual dimension. Many people gave up on prayer long ago: it seemed like one-way, outgoing traffic only.

But God is there, and he wants to talk to us. The trouble may be a filing cabinet on the line: a big lump of selfish requests, greed, an inability to shed prejudice, guilt or old resentments.

However, if we sit quietly, and simply 'wait' on God, he will enable us to recognise the obstacle, and then help us to move it. It's not easy: there may be a whole cabinet full of half-a-lifetime of regret, anger and hurt to move. But surely it's worth a try in 2025.

Cupcakes, coffee and chat
10am-12noon 1st Saturday every month in the Town Hall



'Love in a Cup' Community Café
Every Thursday, 2-5pm:
St Andrew's United Church Halls



