

Minister	Rev. Chris Ray	10 Elm Drive	602692
Secretary	Mrs. Carol Irwin	24 Oak Close	604007
Treasurer	Mrs. Audrey Moore	North Elkington	606706
Magazine Editor	Mrs. Heather Grierson	52 Chestnut Drive	605066
	Email: handsgrierson@btinternet.com		

Room Steward	Ann Cooper	600258	Craft Circle	Dorothy Ingham	601759
Tue. Hsgroup	Anne Taylor	602433	YP	Jo Morris	462442
Thu. Hsgroup	Carol Irwin	604007	Brownies	Pam Elliott	601151
Music Grp	Caroline Isherwood		Rainbows	Pam Elliott	601151

# SHALOM

The Magazine  
of Eastgate Union Church, Louth  
(Baptist and United Reformed)

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES

<b>Sunday</b>	10.00am	Prayer Meeting in the Lounge
	10.20am	Praise led by the Music Group
	10.30am	Worship; + Little Lambs ( <i>crèche</i> ), Sheep, Seeds, Fishers ( <i>3-12</i> ), Branches ( <i>teens</i> ) Communion 3rd Sunday
<b>Monday</b>	7.00pm	Craft Circle, in the Moody Lounge
	7.00pm	The Alpha Course - at Café All Seasons
<b>Tuesday</b>	10.15am	Tuesday Bible Study Group - Lounge
	7.30pm	Housegroup at Terrain Rise, Church Lane, Keddington
	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting ( <i>1st Tue</i> )
<b>Wed.</b>	10 - 12 noon	Coffee Morning in the Moody Lounge "Sunbeams" (Mums & Tots) in the Church Hall
	7.30pm	Prayer Meeting in the Church
	7.30pm	Church Meeting ( <i>4th Wed alternate months</i> )
	7.30pm	Housegroup at Mallards, Main Road, Great Carlton
<b>Thu</b>	1.00-3.00pm	EGU Baby & Toddler Group
	7.30pm	Housegroup - 50 Alexander Drive
	7.30pm	Housegroup - <i>venues as announced</i>
<b>Fri</b>	4.30pm	Rainbows
	6.00pm	Brownies
	7.30pm	Worship Group in the Church



*If you take Christ out of Christmas,  
all you're left with is M & S*

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

God calls us to be a Worshipping, Caring, Growing Family,  
committed to following and serving our Lord Jesus Christ.



**DECEMBER 2011 & JANUARY 2012**

[www.eastgateunion.com](http://www.eastgateunion.com)

## From our Minister



Dear Friends,

Two of the most fascinating characters in the Christmas story are Simeon and Anna, and yet we very rarely remember them. They appear when Mary and Joseph take the infant Jesus to be presented at the Temple as was the custom of the day (see Luke 2:21-40). Both Simeon and Anna are wonderful examples of enduring faith: each had waited a long time for the fulfilment of God's promises and even as they approached the end of their lives they continued to believe those promises would be fulfilled. What I find amazing about both these characters is the fact that when they saw the baby Jesus they immediately recognised that this was the fulfilment of all they had waited for! Most people would have failed to see anything other than a little baby, but not Simeon and Anna.

As a teenager I attended a Methodist Church that, whilst having a number of lovely people in it, there was little sign of any great potential there. Despite all this, there was one couple who faithfully attended, believing that God would do something special. A number of years ago Uncle Tom passed away, then earlier this year the Church was closed down. I found myself wondering whether Uncle Tom's confidence in the promise of God was misplaced - after all, nothing special happened in the 30 or more years he and Auntie Jean had faithfully attended the Church.

As many of you will have experienced, when you ask these kind of questions God has a habit of answering them! In truth, whilst the congregation is no more, that Church has produced a number of Ministers in various traditions who have taken the good news of Jesus to numerous places and touched numerous lives. Like Simeon and Anna, Uncle Tom and Auntie Jean trusted the promises of God and refused to limit God as to how those promises might be fulfilled.

God has spoken promises into each of our lives and over the life of our fellowship, it is important for us to follow the example of enduring faith seen in Simeon and Anna, it is also important that we don't limit the ways in which we expect those promises to be fulfilled so that when they are we don't miss them.

Happy Christmas and a Jesus filled New Year!

Love in Jesus,  
*Chris*

## Calendar for December & January

### December 2011:

Sun	4th	10.00am	Worship led by Graham Reeves, Preacher Chris Ray
		12 noon	Carols at the Christmas Market ( <i>Churches Together</i> )
Mon	5th	7.00pm	The Alpha Course - at All Seasons Café
Tue	6th	7.30pm	Elder's Meeting - Lounge
Fri	9th	9.30am	Pastoral Meeting - Lounge
		7.30pm	Jazz & Jest Evening at EGU
Sun	11th	10.30am	Communion Service: Worship led by David Irwin, Preacher Rev. Chris Ray
Mon	12th	7.00pm	The Alpha Course - at All Seasons Café
Thu	15th	11-2.30pm	Prayer Vigil in the Baptistry Chapel
Sun	18th	10.30am	Christingle Service led by the Youth Team
Tue	20th		Kettle's Remembrance Service at EGU
Fri	23rd	10am - 12	& 2-4pm Mince Pies at The Manse
Sat	24th	11.30pm	Carol by Candlelight - led by Rev. Chris Ray
Sun	25th	10.30am	Christmas Family Celebration - led by Rev. Chris Ray

### January 2012

Sun	1st	10.30am	Worship led by Brian Moore, Preacher Rev. Chris Ray
Fri	6th	6.30pm	Meeting to organise a Passion Play for Louth - at the Methodist Church
Sun	8th	10.30am	Covenant Service, Communion: Worship led by Carol Irwin, Preacher Rev. Chris Ray
Mon	9th	7.00pm	The Alpha Course resumes at All Seasons Café
Tue	10th	7.30pm	Elders' Meeting
Sun	15th	10.30am	Worship led by Rev. Chris Ray, Preacher Rev. Gordon Campbell
Wed	18th - Wed 25th		<b>Week of Prayer for Christian Unity</b> (See opposite for list of weeknight Services/venues)
Sun	22nd	10.30am	Annual United Service for the Week of Prayer at St. James' Church, including Communion: Preacher Rev. Langley Mackrell-Hey
Wed	25th	7.30pm	Church Meeting
Sun	29th	10.30am	Worship led by Graham Reeves, Preacher Brian Moore

### Craft Circle

The last meeting before Christmas  
will be on 19th December.  
We will begin again on 9th January

All material for the **February 2012**  
**Magazine** needs to be with the Editor  
by **Sunday 22nd January**  
at the very latest please.

## 18<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Theme: "We will all be changed"

Wed.	18th	7.00pm	Salvation Army
Thursday	19th	7.00pm	Louth Methodist Church
Friday	20th	7.00pm	St. Mary's, Ugate
Sat.	21st	10.30am	St. Aethelheard's, Louth Cemetery
Sunday	22nd	10.30am	United Service with Communion at St. James
Monday	23rd	7.00pm	Legbourne Parish Church
Tuesday	24th	7.00pm	Eastgate Union Church
Wed.	25th	7.00pm	Louth Christian Fellowship at Elizabeth Court

\*\*\*\*\*

\* **Flower Rota:** \*

* <b>Dec.</b>	4th	Advent 2	*
*	11th	Advent 3	*
*	18th	Advent 4	*
*	25th	Sue Banister	*
* <b>Jan.</b>	1st	Irene Swaby	*
*	8th	Jenny Dilks	*
*	15th	Phyllis Bartup	*
*	22nd	(United Service)	*
*	29th	June Lambert	*

\*\*\*\*\*

### Prayer Vigil

We will be holding a prayer vigil on  
**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December**  
from 11am to 2:30pm.

The theme for this Vigil will be  
**"The Prince of Peace"**  
as we concentrate on praying for  
peace in people's lives and in the  
nations at this Christmas time.

### Rotas for Jan - March

If you are normally on Church Rotas,  
please let Dorothy Ingham know of  
any dates in January - March when  
you will *not* be available,  
by **18th December** at the very latest

### New Wine 2012

28th July - 3rd August

A reminder that Booking is now open  
and discounts are available for early  
booking. More details on the website:

[www.new-wine.org](http://www.new-wine.org)

Paul & Caroline have already booked  
(cost only £122 each with discount)  
Talk to Caroline if you would like to  
know more or want help with booking.

### Minister's Diary

#### December:

5th	The Alpha Course
6th	Elders' Meeting
12th	The Alpha Course
13th	Ground Level Leaders at Lincoln
20th	Kettle's Remembrance Service at EGU
23rd	Mince Pies at the Manse
28th	- 31st Holiday

#### January:

9th	The Alpha Course resumes
10th	Ground Level Ldrs Lincoln
24th	Meeting with URC Training Officer
25th	Church Meeting

## News of the Family

**Mary Moore** has recently had a heart pacemaker fitted and is recovering well.

**Linda White** travelled across to Wales at the end of October to visit her father who, at the time, was close to death. Linda is so thankful to God that, not only did she manage to get over to Wales to see him, but the crisis is now over and his condition has improved. She thanks us for our prayers, and would also like to thank John & Irene Swaby for their kindness in taking her over to Wales.

**Diana Gash** is relieved to report that the lump in her throat turned out to be benign - we give thanks to God with her.

**Charles & Iris Parrish** would value our prayers at this time.

**Bryan Mills** is due to go into hospital for an operation shortly - he and **Rita** would value our continuing prayers.

**Karen Morris** (Jo's sister) recently had a bad fall and is recovering at her Mum's (Jessie's) home.

**June & Colin Lambert** would like to thank us for our prayers for Colin's daughter during her treatment for Laukaemia. They are pleased to report that she has now finished her chemo and is steadily getting stronger. They also give thanks for the safe arrival of their first **great grandchild, Jack**, born on 10th November.

Please continue to remember *those unable to join us regularly* for worship:  
Iris Parrish, Hugh Pinkney and Paul White.

### Birthday Greetings

#### December 2011:

5th	Rachel Allenby
6th	Annie Farrow-Smith
8th	Marina Andrews
9th	Brian Moore
11th	Vicki Hyde
12th	Jonty Hugill
15th	Judith Riley
17th	Margaret Baumber
19th	Chandler White
26th	Jenny Isherwood
27th	Timothy Chaufour
28th	Eileen Roberts



#### January 2012:

1st	Jo Morris
	Mark Fisher
3rd	Ronnie Millar
6th	Phyllis Bartup
10th	Connie Robinson
11th	Ann MacDonald
15th	Jessie Morris
17th	Theresa Doughty
18th	Ellen Swaby
23rd	John Swaby
	Elizabeth Niclasen
24th	Freda Draper
28th	Seith Grierson



## Christmas at EGU

At Christmas time, many folk who don't attend Church for the rest of the year will go to a Christmas Carol Service. This is the Church's opportunity to tell them what Christmas is really all about! Pray that people attending Church this Christmas will hear the message that Jesus is the Reason for the Season and respond.

Inside your Magazines you will find a **leaflet** giving details of our main Services this Christmas. Please don't just squirrel the leaflet away - give it to a member of your family, a neighbour or a friend, and invite them to come with you. There will also be further leaflets in the Church and Church Hall if you can usefully use more.

Our **Christmas Appeal** this year is for **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**:

In the late nineteenth century, Edward Rudolf, a young Sunday School teacher in South London, found himself confronted by the brutal effects of poverty on the lives of children. When two young boys failed to turn up for his Sunday school, he went to look for them and was shocked to find them begging for food on the streets. Approaching the Archbishop, he expressed his concern for children living on the margins of society and suggested that the Church should be at the forefront of social action for such children. Soon afterwards, the first Church of England children's home was founded.

Life is now different from that in Victorian Britain, and so the work of the Children's Society has changed. Today, the Children's Society is committed to helping vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, including safeguarding children in care and young runaways. They give a voice to disabled children, help young refugees to rebuild their lives and provide relief for young carers. Through their campaigns and research, they seek to influence policy and perceptions so that young people have a better chance in life.

The Children's Society:

- runs over 27 children's centres in England
- works in partnership with 40 local authorities
- has 77 programmes up and down the country helping children and young people who are struggling to cope with the pressures of everyday life
- supports children from a range of backgrounds and families through free legal advice on a range of issues.



## Thanks

The Church would like to thank the **Social Committee** for organising the **Winter Fayre** and making it such a wonderful occasion.

They spent many hours behind the scenes organising and preparing, and we are so grateful to them for all their hard work!

Events like this are such a good opportunity to build relationships with people who would not normally enter a Church building

**The Social Committee** would like to thank all who supported the recent **Winter Fayre**.

A total of **£553** was raised which will be split between the **Regeneration Fund** and **the Children's Society**.

Special thanks to Peter for his playing, Alan for his kind donation, John and Jay for transporting tables etc., Brian for putting up our banner, and all the other willing helpers on the day.

## The Alpha Course

The Alpha Course continues at the "All Seasons" Café, on the corner of Church Street and Eastgate. On 5th December the theme will be "Why and How do I pray?"; and on 12th December, "How does God guide us?"



After that there will be a break over the Christmas period.

The Course will resume on Monday 9th January 2012.

## Our New Organ

has finally arrived, only around four months behind schedule!

We pray that this smart new instrument will further enhance our worship as we seek to give glory to our God!

**Louth Christian Fellowship** will be holding an evening of

## Jazz and Jest

at **Eastgate Union Church**  
**Friday 9th December**  
**at 7.30pm**

"Get in the Christmassy mood with an evening of smooth Jazz and Mark Ritchie's humorous and inspired storytelling."

This will be a very entertaining evening and will be a wonderful event to invite friends to, including families with children 10 years old and over.

Tickets are priced at £2.50 for adults, and £1.50 for under 16's and over 60's

## Community Larder

**Peta Hill - November 2011**

The Community Larder has been running for 5 years now, and each year there is a great and increasing demand for food. Last year we distributed 168 parcels, which amounted to approximately 400 people being supported. The downturn in the economic climate is beginning to make its mark.

We noticed an increase in the number of families asking for help, and latterly there has been an increase in individuals needing help due to fleeing from domestic violence - these are mainly, but not solely, ladies with children. Often these families need pots and pans, dishes and knives and forks and well as food, and through your generous support we have been able to help. There has also been an increase in people presenting in severe financial hardship.

The busiest month so far this year was October when we distributed 27 parcels, as quickly as the food was being donated it was being distributed!

There have been many occasions in the last year where I have thought, "How did people manage before the Community Larder?" - the single mum with 3 children fleeing domestic violence; the older lady just out of hospital, supporting children in the family, husband suddenly redundant and no money for food or fuel. On that occasion the Larder fund also paid for some coal. Another young family that we helped at the beginning of the year when it was very snowy - the Community Larder was their last hope. That family had been managing, with a struggle but they were managing. Suddenly the breadwinner was on reduced hours, and then no job and so they could no longer afford to buy food. Several months later when the husband had found work, they returned with two boxes of groceries, grateful for the help when they were desperate.

There have been many generous donations - schools, Churches, business and charities all support the Larder - it is a real example of a community supporting itself. The Larder volunteers were successful in receiving a Lincolnshire CVS award for outstanding volunteer contribution to their own community.

Thank you for your contribution to the Larder, that you for helping those people who find themselves in a less fortunate position than ourselves.

Hi dear friends from Louth,

I hope you are doing well over there in Louth. I have a big challenge of adjusting to a familiar place) while knowing that I will move on again. The last months have been full with activities and by times it was confusing as well. Sometimes I think of you and the fellowship and wonder how things are progressing for you.

Another thing I kind of have to let go. but not completely. Please let me know how I can pray for you because you will always hold a warm place in my heart. thank you for your prayers and encouragements.

**From Ineke Haaring**

We, too, benefit from the Society's provision of material to celebrate the meaning of Christmas through the Christingle Service, this year being held on 18<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am.

So please give generously to this Appeal - there will be opportunities at our main Christmas Services, or you can place your gift in a marked envelope and either put into the collection plate or hand straight to Audrey Moore, our Church Treasurer

### Giving Christmas Cards to Church friends?

Why not save money by giving just **ONE** card to everyone?  
(You could even then donate the money you save to our Christmas Appeal!)

There will be space reserved for you to pin your cards on the notice board at the back of the Church.

### Mince Pies at the Manse

There will be an open Manse on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December from 10am to 12noon and from 2pm to 4pm.**

If you need a break from Christmas preparations please feel free to drop into the Manse and bring along any family or friends who could do with a break too.

### A Passion Play for Louth - *Easter 2012*

The good news is that Churches Together will definitely be putting on a Passion Play in Louth for Easter 2012!

Peter Maddison has found a courtroom drama called "The Vigil" written in 1947. It begins, "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, on the night of April 6th in a quiet garden on a hillside, a crime was committed..."

Performances of the play are planned for April 6th & 7th, Good Friday and Easter Saturday.

The venue is still being finalised.

Anyone interested in helping with the play, either acting, scenery, costumes, stage-managing or administration, is invited to an Open Meeting at Louth Methodist Church on Friday 6th January at 6.30pm, (which will include tea and refreshments for potential cast and helpers!). If you are interested but unable to attend, or you would simply like to know more, contact Peter on 605345, or Rev. Langley Mackrell-Hey on 604216



## WHO'S WHO AT EGU

**Age**  
53

**Your immediate family**  
Husband Phil

**Your background?**  
Born in Burton-n-Trent, lived in Berlin, London and Surrey

**What brought you to Louth?**  
A business opportunity (All Seasons Accommodation)

**How long have you lived in Louth?**  
18 months

**Your job**  
"Head cook and bottle washer!"

**Spare time interests**  
When we actually get spare time, I read, watch films, see friends

**Favourite books**  
"Lord of the Rings", Sherlock Holmes and so many others - I am an avid reader

**When did you first come to faith in Christ?**  
Approximately 7 years ago. A series of meetings and persons, leading me to Alpha

**Favourite Bible Book**  
Isaiah - he points the way to the coming of Jesus. I tend to get lost in Isaiah for months on end!

**Favourite hymn**  
"Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart"

**When did you first start to attend EGU?**  
May/June 2010

**How long have you been a member?**  
Since July 2011

**Why did you first start coming to EGU?**  
The deal with the move was that God pointed us to a fellowship



**Ann MacDonald**

**Where can we meet you in our fellowship?**

Sunday morning worship, Wednesday Housegroup, Alpha at Café All Seasons

**What jobs do you do in our Church?**

Children's Church, Housegroup Leader, Welcomer

### "In Christ Alone"

**Heather & Seith Grierson**

This was the theme of the East Midlands Baptists' Day in Leicester on 12th November, when several hundred folk from all over the East Midlands gathered for a time of inspiration and challenge.

The afternoon theme was "**Christ Honouring Discipleship**". Rev. Richard Webb (who spoke at our Church about Spiritual Warfare earlier in the year), introduced the theme by telling us about "Jane", who travels everywhere with him... "Jane" turned out to be his satnav! Whenever Jane detects a problem on the road, she says, "Incident ahead... Finding detour", and Richard can take appropriate avoiding action. Jesus, in contrast, walked resolutely forward into the place of suffering! How would our lives be if Jesus had taken the detour? How would our lives be if we lived by following "Jane"? Jesus refuses to take the detour, and Christ honouring discipleship does the same thing.

Three modern idols, said Richard, are Consumerism, Convenience and Comfort. We have become so comfortable and so adept at avoiding risk that there is a real danger that we are no longer Christ honouring disciples. Using the title of a book, Richard challenged us to "Feel the fear and do it anyway," We are called not just to be consumers but to be contributors, we are called to inconvenience, we are called to be uncomfortable and to walk *towards* danger. Our lives need to be completely changed and impacted by the Cross.

So, Richard concluded, if "Jane" comes up in your mind telling you to take avoiding action, press "Cancel" and decide, "If this is the way Christ is leading I will go there."

**Check out our newly rebuilt website!**  
[www.eastgateunion.com](http://www.eastgateunion.com)

Many, many thanks to **Lori Fear**, our new Web-Master, who has worked so hard to update our website to make it look really exciting and informative.

If you have any events, dates, information, etc., that you would like included, contact Lori on:  
[lorifear@hotmail.com](mailto:lorifear@hotmail.com)

**Graham Reeves**  
**Painting and**  
**Decorating**  
**General Household**  
**maintenance**  
**01507 462486**