An aerial photograph of Lincoln, England, showing a mix of historic stone buildings and modern residential areas. A semi-transparent green banner is overlaid across the middle of the image. In the center of this banner is a solid green square containing the text 'Greater Lincoln ACTIVE FAITH Network'. Below this square, another green banner contains the text 'Churches and Christian-rooted Organisations united in service to Christ through service to the people of Lincoln'.

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# Civic Prayer Breakfast 2019

# POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

## **Greatest Challenge:**

Our greatest challenge in politics is the level of division which seems to be growing stronger all the time.

People's views seem to be more extreme, more polarised, less able to compromise or see each other's point of view.

The divisions we are now facing have split not just the country and political parties but communities, families and friendships.

Our challenges go even deeper - with a divided country inequalities go un-noticed and with one question taking all of everyone's attention., we are struggling to deal with the real problems which effects people's everyday life.

# POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

## **Greatest Hope:**

Our hope for the future lies in the renewed enthusiasm for engagement with politics shown by the younger generation. For too long their voices have not been heard so their views have been ignored, but in the last four years younger people have become more active and involved.

They have brought with them optimism and hope that we can make real changes for their future to bring fairness, social justice and environmental issues to the forefront of people minds.

# POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

## Prayer:

Lord, your Word asks us to pray for the leadership of our country. We pray that words of division will be replaced with words of unity. We pray for wisdom as to the way forward where there seems to be no path. Help our leaders to have the wellbeing of the country at the heart of every decision that is made.

We believe that you have called us to be a voice for those who have not been heard. Help us to know when to speak up and when to be silent. When to challenge and when to obey.

We look to you and ask that your will be done in the leadership of our country

Amen

# POLICING AND SECURITY

## Greatest Challenge:

Policing across the world is an ever changing entity, and one in which the public rightly expect us to respond effectively and efficiently to new threats and new ways of committing crime, often with fewer resources. However, throughout all of those changes the core of policing remains constant, reflecting the need to keep people and communities safe from harm, the need to keep the peace and the fundamental requirement to protect democracy. These things will always form the backbone of what our police service stands for. Perhaps the greatest challenge facing policing across the UK is for us to continue to provide a level of service to our communities that maintains, and actively seeks to better the service levels which have traditionally been provided, against a backdrop of reduced officer numbers. This challenge is often referred to as 'the need to do more with less'; an aspiration which all too easily evolves into the reality of officers struggling to meet demand, and ultimately burning out. In those circumstances, policing would clearly fail both the public and our staff. It is essential then that policing adapts to these challenges holistically, seeking to streamline processes across departments in order to reduce the demand on frontline staff, whilst ensuring that those in the greatest need of assistance are kept safe.

Chief Inspector Steven Williamson — Lincolnshire Police

# POLICING AND SECURITY

## Greatest Hope:

My greatest hope is that all of the many diverse communities across Lincoln can continue to work together to make a more cohesive, fair and tolerant community, reflecting the values of caring, love and respect for which Lincoln has long been well known.

# POLICING AND SECURITY

## Prayer:

Father God,

As we, your church in Lincoln, gather together to affirm our love for this city and for you, we unite in our prayers for those who keep watch over it, who uphold the law and who protect us.

As the burden of security becomes more challenging to bear for the men and women of our police force, we pray for understanding, wisdom and compassion for those who hold the purse strings.

May we always value the dedication of those who serve the public of Lincoln, sometimes in the face of provocation and hostility.

As they are called upon to 'do more with less', we pray that it may not be at the expense of either the well-being of our police officers, or the endangerment of our communities and individuals. May common sense prevail over politics.

We pray too that Lincoln will continue to progress as a city where in and between communities conversations are shared, where closer relationships are built, and where the values of peace and harmony may flourish.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, we pray. Amen.

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Greatest Challenge

### Engineering Energy Sector

The greatest challenge is to succeed in a rapidly changing world, and one that still has conflict and instability within it.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, Digitalisation, is bringing new technologies and capabilities at the fastest pace ever, and learning how to apply these to our business is a huge challenge and exciting at the same time. It also brings the possibility of a significant disruptor in our market as we have seen with taxis (UBER); shopping (Amazon) and leisure (AirBNB), and we have to be ready for this and lead the way ourselves.

Operating globally in a world that is continually disrupted with conflict and instability is a significant challenge and also ensuring the responsibility of sustainability in everything we do, which itself is driving rapid change in the energy market.

Neil Corner — Managing Director of Siemens

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## Greatest Hope

### Engineering Energy Sector

That we provide fulfilling careers for our employees, and support our customers globally with the best products and services.

That we add value to our Community here in Lincoln and fully engage with it

That we inspire the Engineers of the future

That we make a difference in the World

Neil Corner — Managing Director of Siemens

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## **Prayer:**

Creator God, we pray this morning for all involved within the business and economic life of our City. We pray that they may use their God given skills to enable all to grow in a sustainable, flourishing City. We pray for those tasked with making decisions in a chaotic market place, that they serve human as well as economic goals. We make our prayer through the carpenter of Galilee.

Amen

# EDUCATION AND LEARNING

## Greatest Challenge

The greatest challenge we face in education and learning is uncertainty over future government policy and funding – will there be a redirection of more young people away from traditional Higher Education and towards alternatives such as apprenticeships, and/or a reduction in student numbers? We have rising costs and fixed fees that may be cut further, so we have to plan to do more with less.

# EDUCATION AND LEARNING

## Greatest Hope

Our greatest hope is to act as a source of renewal and enlightenment for our community - both by cultivating understanding among our students, and through our research contributing to the body of knowledge that allows us to respond to the challenges of the era.

# EDUCATION AND LEARNING

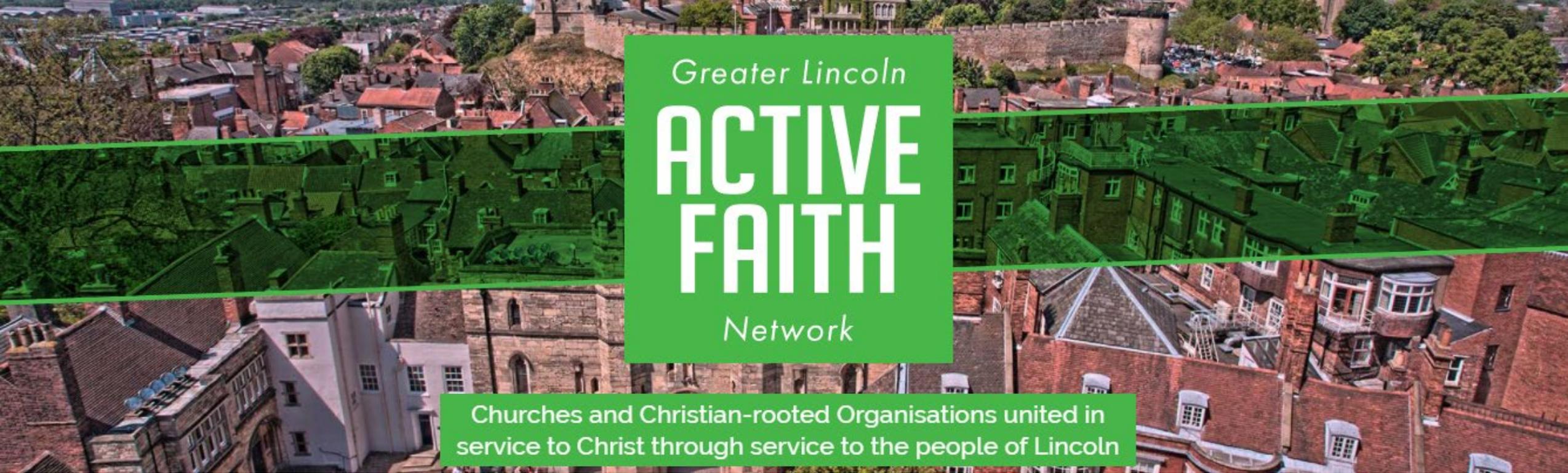
## Prayer:

Father God

We thank you for each and every person who works in the education and learning sector. We thank you for people who are passionate about passing on knowledge and skills and we ask you to bless every education institute in this City. We pray for those who teach, those who lead and those who make decisions about policy. We pray that you will grant them great wisdom for the tasks in hand. Please also bless our City with creativity to adapt well to changes and that resources will be in good supply to meet the needs of all learners. We pray that the Universities, Colleges, Schools and Education Centres will be sources of renewal and enlightenment and that Lincoln would be known as a place of excellence in education.

In the name of Jesus,

Amen



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**Right Worshipful Mayor of Lincoln  
Sue Burke**

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Greatest Challenge

1 in 4 people have mental health problems which impacts on the quality of life. There is an increasing number of people becoming depressed. Suicide is the single biggest killer in men under the age of 45. In spite of the allocation of funding for mental health due to the ever increasing demands we are faced with limited resources for mental health – more so in some parts of the County.

Dr Beena Rajkumar– Consultant Psychiatrist & Psychotherapist.

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Greatest Hope

My greatest hope is that we work cohesively using a holistic recovery model with different agencies and with communities in fostering recovery, connection and well being.

Dr Beena Rajkumar– Consultant Psychiatrist & Psychotherapist.

# HEALTH AND WELLBEING

## Prayer:

Creator God,

who knits each person together in their mother's womb: it is you who reveal knowledge to scientists and doctors. We thank you for the heritage of medical breakthrough, expertise and welfare we enjoy in our nation, freely available to us because of your revelation, and the faithfulness of previous generations.

Renew thanksgiving in our hearts for what we have received because of others' work and sacrifice.

Healer of nations, you provide insight to all who seek you, and defend those in need.

We thank you for the gift of health services in our nation,

freely available to everyone no matter their background, income level or need. Give your wisdom to our government, health professionals, and advisers as they seek the right reforms.

Bless our health service to thrive, to prosper, and to heal.

Bless our doctors and nurses to care, to excel, and to bring healing. Bless our nation to understand, thank, and honour

those who seek to bring us health.

For everything that is good comes from you. Amen.

# MEDIA, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Greatest Challenge

Although the creative industry is the fastest growing sector it is not valued in the same way as others. Within Lincoln itself, the closure of the Usher Gallery and the current pressure on the Drill Hall due to cuts in funding are going to be big losses to the City. Lincolnshire is seriously underfunded by the Arts Council and a lot of artists are put off from staying in the area and sharing their gifts with the county.

Toby Ealdon – Zest Theatre

# MEDIA, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Greatest Hope

Art changes people's lives. It creates a community of shared experiences, preventing isolation and therefore improves health and wellbeing. My greatest hope is that this will be recognised and that the arts can be part of the solution to the needs within the City and the County.

Toby Ealdon – Zest Theatre

# MEDIA, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Prayer:

Father God, we thank you that we have so many organisations and individuals in and around our city who are dedicated to informing, assisting can, helping and inspiring its inhabitants through media, arts and entertainment.

We pray that you will increase levels of creativity and vitality in these essential areas and provide great new opportunities for expansion and growth as time moves on.

Please help those who are involved in these fields to always be able to work ethically and in a way that speaks positively.

We ask that you will assist within areas of great challenge and provide a opportunities for great hope to be realised.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

# COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

## Greatest Challenge

Rough sleepers, the homeless, the pretend homeless, beggars, druggies, zombies, spice heads, offenders... **“Othering”**

**“Othering”** is based on the conscious or unconscious assumption that a certain identified group poses a threat to the favoured group and it’s sometimes easier to dismiss them as being in some way less human, and less worthy of respect and dignity, than we are.

# COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

## Greatest Hope

That whatever a persons individual circumstances - that whatever the situation that we as a community are faced with - that we never forget that people, are people first.

Jonny Goldsmith – P3 Charity

# COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

## Prayer:

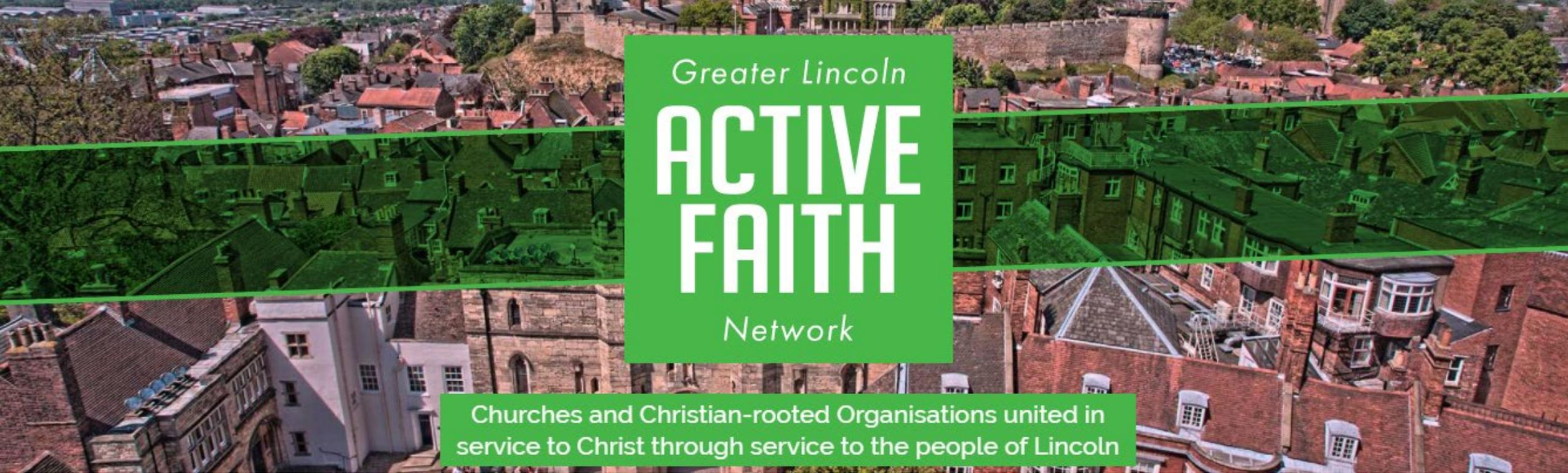
Father God

In Your word, you say; 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'

Help us to serve all people, without prejudice, in our City. Remind us that we serve you by serving your people. We ask that here in Lincoln, no one is left behind, no one is forgotten or neglected. We pray that human dignity and inclusion will be hallmarks of this place. We particularly lift before you those whose lives are broken such that they are without a home, or controlled by addiction. We ask God that you will bring healing and wholeness, that you will provide a future and a hope. I pray that you will give us each the boldness to play our part without compromise.

In the name of Jesus

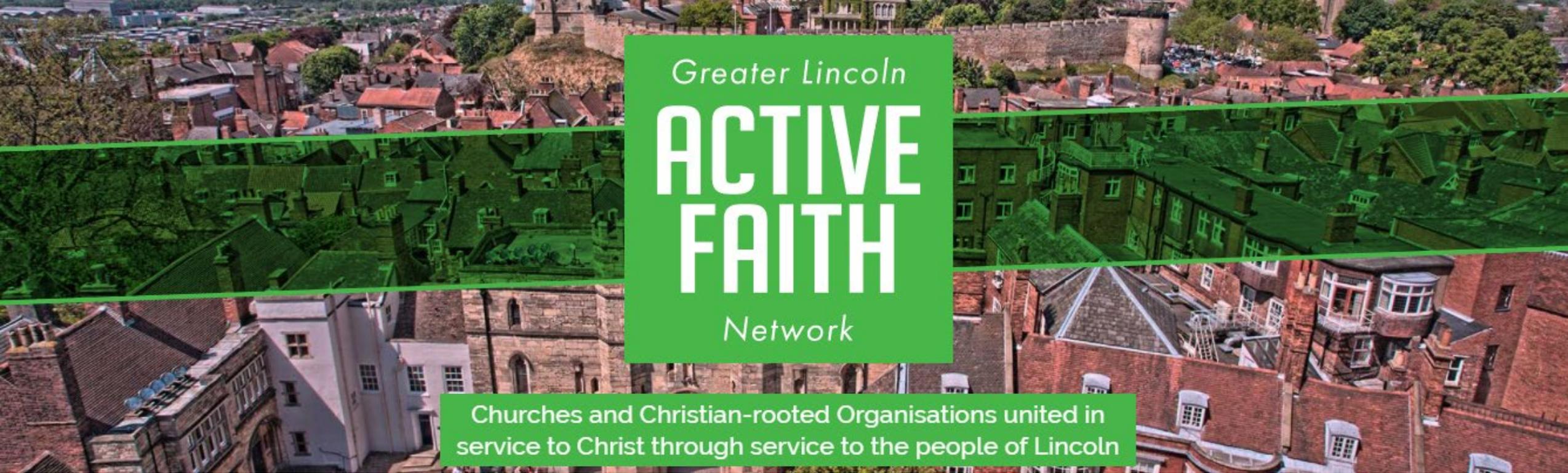
Amen

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**Joy Blundell**

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