

CHRIST CHURCH MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

Guest Editor of this magazine

Carly Brown

March
2008

Who's Who at Christ Church		www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk
Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Hon. Ass. Priest	Peter Wibroe	
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Lawrence Aspinall	361718
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for March magazine: Sunday 23rd March.

Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,

or email: ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop

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Christ Church Hall
is available for hire.

Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett
01474 568585

Well equipped. Very
suitable for meetings
and children's parties.



Welcome



A message from Sue Brewer, Vicar of Christ Church.

Easter is so early this year! It seems as if we are just forgetting about Christmas... and already Easter is nearly here. Whereas some years the spring flowers are nearly over at Easter and the trees are in full leaf, this year it is a very different picture. As we look around only the earliest blossom is out, the magnolia buds and the leaf buds on the trees are about to burst open, and the first of the spring bulbs are peeping up through the soil.

The world around us, in fact, is full of the hope of things to come.

In the church, too, there's a sense of expectation and promise. Lent has a solemn and serious feel about it – even if you haven't given up chocolate or alcohol. At Christ Church our Lent Envelope scheme reminds us of those who are suffering because they lack basic medical provision, or clean water – so many of the things we take for granted. All around us there seem to be stories of pain and of suffering in the world.

Yet the Easter hope is just around the corner – over the next few weeks the story will be told in our special services, of how Jesus himself suffered and died, and of how he overcame even death to bring hope to all people.

Just as the spring shoots are breaking through the bare soil... so the signs of hope are there for those who will look. Wherever love and compassion win over hatred and anger, wherever communities are renewed, wherever family life is strengthened, wherever peace is restored.

As we look around us this Easter, I pray that we may all see signs of hope – and that we may ourselves become signs of hope to those around us.

Every blessing this Easter
Sue Brewer



I've Been Coming Here On Sunday

I've been coming here on Sundays for seventy year or so.

"Twas here that I was Christened and 'tis here I'll want to go.

Now I know you all gets vexed about changes in belief.

Well frills on top don't matter if you're comfy underneath.

I never lets it bother if I'm High or Low or what,

While I've got me Ten Commandments

I shan't go wrong a lot.

Now, I likes old-fashioned prayer book

And they like A.S.B.,

And they can have what pleases them,

And I'll read what suits me,

And half the hymns we sing these days

I've never heard before,

But I can stand and listen, and perhaps I'll learn some more.

All these guitars and instruments -

It's no more than they had

Afore they put the organ in,

When my Granddad was a lad,

And I don't suppose God'll worry

He wouldn't make a fuss,

As long all the singing's mean't for Him and not for us.

We've had clergy coming straight from college,

Full of summat new,

From incense on the altar to posters in the pew.

And I lets 'em all get on with it, 'cos all these fashions pass,

And you'll still do the flowers, me dears,

And I'll still clean the brass

I got this seat I always have, no draughts and nice and near,

So I can hear the organ and see the vicar clear,

And I tells God what's been happening,

And what a week I've had,

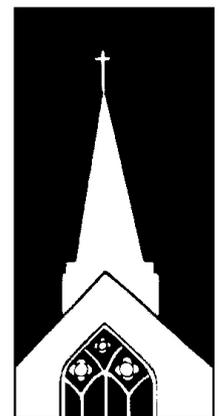
And I thanks Him for the good times,

And He helps me through the bad,

'Cos all that really matters, as far as I can see,

Is that I, down here, remembers Him,

And he remembers me.



Barbara Robinson - Poem supplied by Betty Martin



A Tale of Two Prawns

Far away in the tropical waters of the Caribbean, two prawns were swimming around in the sea, one called Justin and the other called Christian. The prawns were constantly being harassed and threatened by sharks that inhabited the area.

Finally one day, Justin said to Christian, "I'm fed up with being a prawn; I wish I was a shark, and then I wouldn't have any worries about being eaten."

A large mysterious cod appeared and said, "Your wish is granted." Lo and behold, Justin turned into a shark. Horrified, Christian immediately swam away, afraid of being eaten by his old mate.

Time passed (as it invariably does), and Justin found life as a shark boring and lonely. All his old mates simply swam away whenever he came close to them.

While swimming alone one day he saw the mysterious cod again, and he thought perhaps the mysterious fish could change him back into a prawn. He approached the cod and begged to be changed back, and, lo and behold, he found himself turned back into a prawn.

With tears of joy in his tiny little eyes Justin swam back to his friend. Looking around the gathering at the reef he realised he couldn't see his old pal.

"Where's Christian?" he asked.

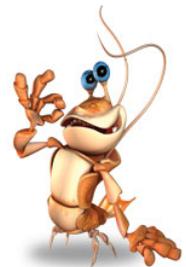
"He's at home, still distraught that his best friend changed sides to the enemy and became a shark," came the reply.

Eager to put things right again and end the mutual pain and torture, Justin set off the Christian's abode. As he opened the coral gate, memories came flooding back. He banged on the door and shouted, "It's me! Justin! Your old friend, come out and see me again."

Christian replied, "No way man, you'll eat me. You're now a shark, the enemy, and I'll not be tricked into being your dinner."

Justin cried back, "No, I'm not. That was the old me. I've changed! I've found Cod. I'm a Prawn again, Christian"

Supplied by John Thrush Dec 07



CCADS Production April 24th 25th and 26th 2008

Rehearsals are well under way for our next production, a comedy by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr. entitled **The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society Murder Mystery.**

Familiar faces are back treading the boards, but in many different guises, as although there are only 5 in the cast there are at least 12 different characters. If you think that will leave you confused, just imagine how the cast feel?!

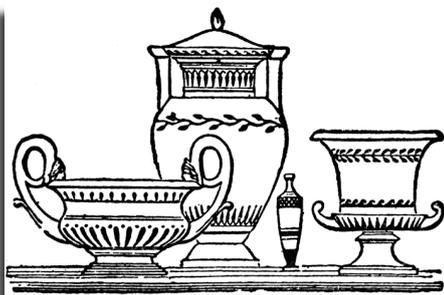
Actors and backstage crew are working very hard on what is a complicated play, but having fun along the way and we hope that you will enjoy watching the production as much as we have enjoyed rehearsing it!

Tickets will be on sale immediately after Easter.



Antiques Valuation and Craft Day

Saturday 8th March



Soroptimist International of Gravesend & District are holding an Antiques Valuation and Craft Day on Saturday 8th March at Christ Church Hall, Old Road East, Gravesend. The doors open at 10 am and close at 1pm. Mr Alan White, Head of Antiques and Fine Art at Hobbs Parker

Auctioneers, Ashford will be talking to people about their antique items. At the same time there will be the chance to see demonstrations and purchase crafts including – Porcelain Painting, Cards with Quilling and Decoupage, Glass Engraving, Wood turning, Jewellery making, Furniture Restoring and various Needlework Crafts including children's clothes, bean bags and patchwork. Entry is £1.50 per adult with £1.00 per item to be valued. Entry is free for accompanied children. There will be refreshments throughout the day. Proceeds from the day will go to President Diane's charities – The Stroke Association and Darent Valley Hospital. Please contact Betty Martin for further information.

Sheila Knight, Jan 08

Do you use coal for warmth in your home or know anyone who does?

Then give me a call
Babs: G'send 326128



For Sale

Items of good furniture.

If interested contact
David Casely on
533199 to view.



Choir

Music at Christ

Music Group

This year with Easter occurring so early, there was hardly time to draw breath before Lent was upon us. This is a very important time of the year for us all when music can especially help us in our devotions.



We have been preparing music for Passiontide until Easter. **PASSION SUNDAY** March 9th Evening service at 4pm

The music will include:

"GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD"

John Goss 1800-1880

"LET THY MERCIFUL EARS O LORD"

Thomas Weelkes 1576-1623

"JESU, THE VERY THOUGHT IS SWEET"

Melody from Piae Cantiones arranged by Charles Wood

On Easter Day after what seems a long cold Lent it will be good to celebrate the Queen of Seasons with joyful singing.

The anthem for **EASTER DAY EVENSONG** March 23rd 4pm will be:

"WITH A VOICE OF SINGING."
Martin Shaw

Rehearsals are going well for Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, and Maundy Thursday; all three of these services will be a combination of familiar and new songs. We hope that you will enjoy singing them as much as we have enjoyed learning them!

Do not forget that if you can play an instrument or can sing, then we would love to hear from you. We rehearse 2 Monday evenings a month, although we sometimes have extra rehearsals on a Sunday morning after the 10 o'clock service. If you are interested please ring Gill Campbell on 01474 534517, or speak to her in church.



The Choir web page is now available on the Christ Church website :

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk Have a look and let us know what you would like to see on our page.

Gwyneth and the Choir wish you all a

VERY HAPPY EASTER !!

Christ Church Mothers' Union

Our programme for 2008 has just been printed. There are copies on the M.U table just inside the Church. You are welcome to any of our meetings. As you will see we have various speakers, quizzes, social events and quite a few Services/Social events with other M.U Branches in the Deanery. Last year we awarded Long Service Awards to Audrey Price, Betty Fox, Betty Martin, Joan Jarvis and Joyce Newton. Also to our indoor member Marjorie Clements who as you know sadly passed away recently. We have a total of 22 members young and old! The number is growing year by year. Pick up a programme. All the details are inside.

Maureen Fittill Feb 08



Women's World Day of Prayer

Services are being held on Friday 7th March at both St Aidan's Church (10 am) and The Methodist Church, Gravesend (2:30 pm). The theme of the later service is 'God's wisdom provides New Understanding' – A service prepared by Christian Women of Guyana. The speaker will be Gwyneth Williams – further details from Pam Kilby 01474 332693.

GOD'S GANG!

I like God's Gang because I like doing fun things with Shelia and all of the helpers. And I like listening to the God story. The rugs remind me of a stained glass window. We light the candles to remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. God's gang is great fun and I like tidying it away at the end.
Georgia

Christ Church Social Responsibility Committee

The committee has been in existence for many years now and is made up of representatives from the PCC and other 'volunteers' who meet about four times a year. Our remit is something like a mini social service; we aim to keep an eye on the needs of the parish. This is not always easy but with 'a little help from friends' we have over the years supported both the young and the old.

The PCC allocate us a budget for their annual 'giveaway' and from that we decide who to support financially by continuation of donations or looking for new appeals. Last year we purchased toys for the crèche, sponsored David Croydon's charity walk, made donations to the Guides, Darent Valley Hospital Lollipop appeal, local schools for RE resources, the Bereavement Group for Christmas Gifts, Women's Aid, Miracles Youth Club, Medi Alert Packs and of course funded all our Over 80's events.

Our chairman John Hougham helped undertake a disability audit of the Church and following his recommendations several adaptations were made. If anyone has any ideas about safety and accessibility around the church please let John know.

Gill Campbell has had the task of arranging lifts and is always looking for many drivers. Please see Gill if you can spare some time once a month or so to bring one of our less able parishioners to church.

Each Year Betty Martin holds a coffee morning to raise funds to send Easter Eggs to vulnerable children and after many years of organising the summer Over 80's tea parties has recently handed this over to Margot Edwards and Gill Campbell. Betty remains invaluable as the committee's eyes and ears and alerts us to those who may need extra support.

Ann Lennard is our trusty treasurer and ensures we keep our accounts in order. Perhaps our most pleasing activity is arranging outings for the over 80's. With the help of volunteer

drivers we have been able to take this sprightly group to a variety of places including Greap Comp, Hall Place Garden, Aylesford Priory, Broadview Gardens, and a pre-Christmas trip to Notcutts Garden Centre.

If you have any questions or suggestions you would like to share please do not hesitate to ask either the Vicar or any committee member.

Jenny Shoesmith

Secretary

February 2008

The Journey to the Cross.....

Easter is early this year, and Passiontide – the 2 week Period during which we walk with Jesus his journey to the cross – begins on March 9th, Passion Sunday. We will begin this Holy Season with an Evening Service of Passion music and readings at 4 pm.

Visit to Tudley Church – 28th June 2008

The East Gravesend Ecumenical group of Churches is arranging a visit to Tudley Church which has stained glass windows by Marc Chagall. If you are interested, please note the date in your diary; further details to follow in due course.



1st Windmill Hill Scout Group

Saturday January 2008 saw The Waterhole (the Scout Group meeting place) packed with parents, young leaders, Explorer Scouts and lots of young people for a Quiz Night.

Richard Painting (Skip) was the compere and scorer for the evening, the questions had been prepared by Paul Rushbrook (GSL), these caused some consternation among The Echo Wanderers team (representing Christ Church) especially the one about how many Sundays are there in Lent (they got it wrong!). While the youngest children played with plasticine, drew and coloured pictures the rest of us racked our brains to answer the questions. By half time with several teams vying for the lead everyone enjoyed the break, bought raffle tickets and completed the marathon quiz on films.

The second half of the evening saw one team start to edge into a lead that would win them the quiz. Well done to the team. A mention should be made for the gallant effort made by the Explorer Scouts average age about 13 years, even though they carried off the wooden spoon prize they stuck to the task throughout the night.

A total of £174 was made from the evening, well done to all who made it such a success. The team from Christ Church look forward to the next quiz.

Ian Brown
January 2008

Echo Square

A busy transport hub dominated by the roundabout which was recently given a makeover. There is much history associated with Echo Square which can be found in publications from Gravesend Public Library, but if there is someone out there who would like to produce a magazine size article please let us know.

Around Echo Square are many shops and types of business, some having been there for a long time others having recently changed hands.

In future magazines we would like to profile each business and give an insight into the lives of the people who live and work in Echo Square. If you would like to have your business profiled please contact the editor Ian Brown by email:

ianbbrown@phoncoop.coop or through Christ Church.

Ian Brown Feb 08

££ MONEY MONEY MONEY ££

Are you good with money? Do you like working with figures? Would you be willing to give of some of your time as Christ Church Treasurer?

A new treasurer is urgently needed for Christ Church to take over from Lawrence Aspinall when he retires shortly.

The job can be shared and a job description is available.

If you are interested to learn more then please contact Sue Brewer our vicar to get more information.

"Have you considered reviewing how much you give, at the end of the financial year. If you are a taxpayer, then gift aid it and we can recover the tax back from the chancellor."

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Passion Sunday

9th March

4pm ... for God so loved the world

Music and readings on the theme of Christ's Passion

Palm Sunday

16th March

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

4pm Evening Prayer

Maundy Thursday

20th March

7:30pm Holy Communion

After this service the church will be open until midnight for those who like to watch and pray

Good Friday

21st March

10am Hot Cross Bun Service

Especially for Children and young people

12 – 3pm A Mediation on the Cross in music and pictures

Come for as long as you like – arrive or leave on the hour or at ½ past the hour

Holy Saturday

22nd March

8pm Vigil and Service of Light

Easter Day

23rd March

8am Holy Communion

10am Holy Communion

Followed by refreshment and Easter Eggs



6:30pm Festal Evensong

What's on this month?

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	Highlights this month! Easter Day				1 Working Party
2 Mothering Sunday Parade service Youth Club	3 Music Group 8 pm Cubs Brownies	4	5 AGM MU 8pm Guides	6 Choir Brownies Beavers	7 CCADS Scouts Office hours	8
9 Passion Service for God so loved the world Youth club	10 Cubs Brownies	11 Staff meeting 6pm	12 First Steps Guides	13 Choir Brownies Beavers	14 CCADS Scouts Office hours	15
16 Palm Sunday Youth Club	17 Cubs Brownies	18	19 Guides	20 Maundy Thursday Choir Brownies Beavers	21 Good Friday Hot Cross Bun Service 3 hour devotion	22 Holy Saturday
23 Easter Day 	24 Easter Monday	25 Staff meeting 6pm	26 Guides P.C.C	27 Choir Brownies Beavers	28 CCADS Scouts Office hours	29

What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

For further information contact
the Church Wardens

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday Uniformed Organisations parade

Evening Service - summer 6.30pm Winter 4.00pm

Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Monday and Saturday 8am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.

Wednesday 10.00am

Office hours

Please note that Office hours are changing as of March. The new time is 6:30pm until 7:30pm but is still on a Friday.

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Cubs; Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday

Wednesday Guides; Mother's Union (1st Wednesday)

First Steps for Pre-School 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm

Thursday Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice

Friday Scouts; Amateur Dramatics; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working party (1st Saturday)

Sunday Christ Church Youth Club