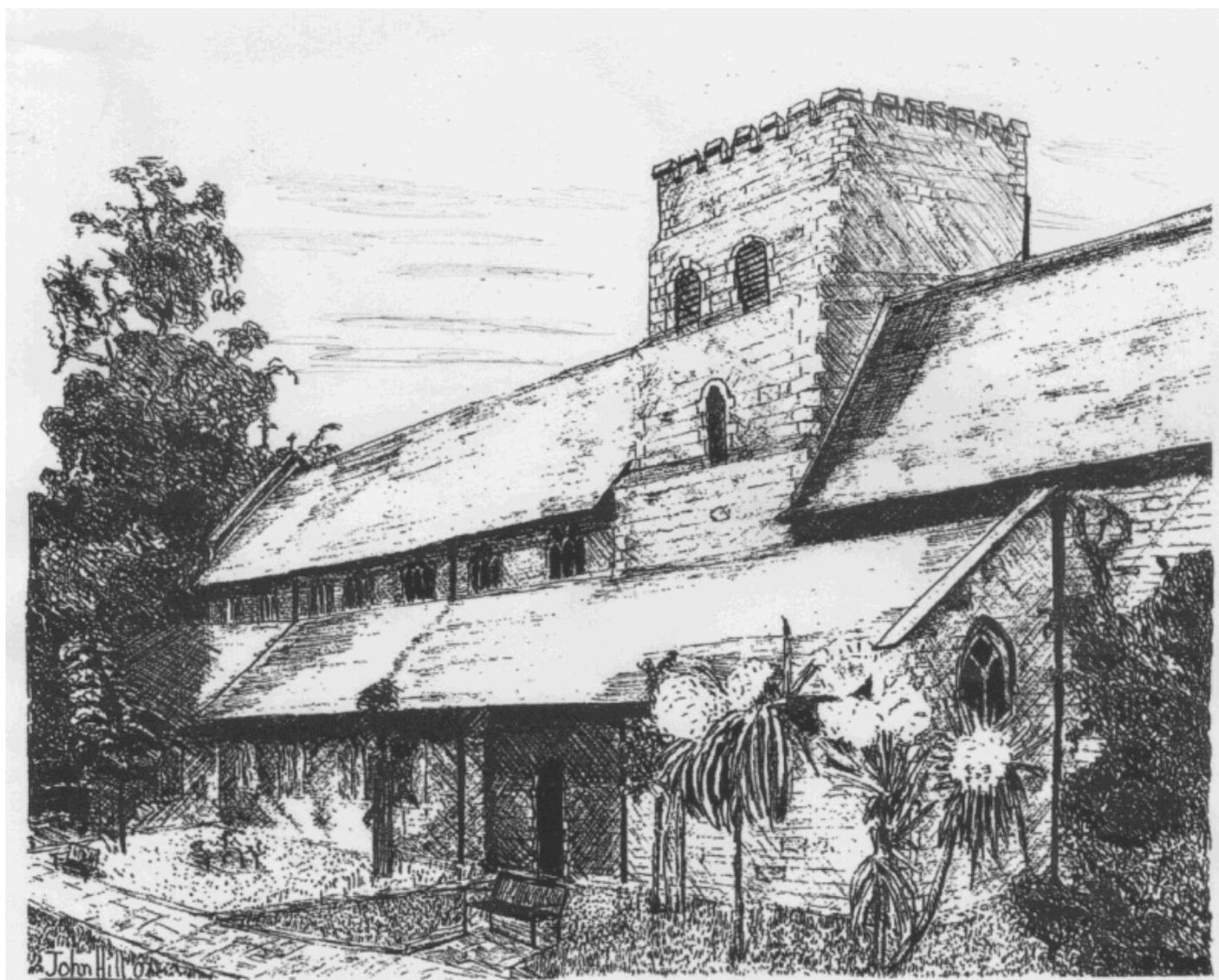


CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

Christian Aid breakfast
12th October 8.30 am.

Youth Club launch
5th October - Pizza Party

October
2008

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 | Stanley Bond | 534510 |
| Reader | Rosemary Austin | 358702 |
| Reader | Sheila Brown | 356339 |
| Reader | John Hougham | 352138 |
| Reader | Betty Martin | 352696 |
| Reader | Martin Sewell | 745443 |

Deadline for November magazine: Sunday 26th October .
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,
or email: ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop

Inside this month's magazine

- Page 3** Welcome / Shoe box collection
- Page 4** A Church Warden's Notes
- Page 5** Golden Wedding
- Page 6** First Steps
- Page 7** Music at Christ Church
- Page 8** Countdown to Christmas Bazaar
- Page 10** Information page
- Page 11** God's Gang
- Page 12** Gardening tips for September
- Page 13** Baptisms; Marriages; Funerals
- Page 14** Evening services @ Christ Church

Christ Church Hall
is available for hire.
Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett
01474 568585

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

Welcome



Welcome to the October Parish Magazine. With the success of the Beijing Games, London is now the host city for the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics. Gravesham will have celebrated the start of the four year Cultural Olympiad with a Festival of Lights on Friday 26th September. At Christ Church we look forward to the launch of the Youth Club on 5th October with a Pizza Party.

An Art exhibition at St Paul's Church continues 'Hope 08', and direct from the QE2 liner we have a wonderful letter of two people celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Editor

In order to continue providing as many people as possible with a copy of the parish magazine it is hoped that the congregation and others will be able to give donations of at least 30p per copy – preferably paid annually and gift aided, to help with the production costs. Inside this magazine there is an envelope for those who are tax payers and willing to gift aid their donation. Thank you to those of you who are already making donations. If you have any questions please speak to one of the church wardens.

Editor

Christmas Shoe Box Collection



Preparations for Christmas get earlier every year and now is the time to give a present to someone who really needs it. Blythswood



Care is a Christian charity based in Rochester who supply Christmas shoeboxes to children and adults in

need, living in Eastern Europe and India. You can find out more about the charity at www.blythswood.org.

Please help by filling a decorated shoebox with small items such as soap, toothbrush, socks, pens, notepads, etc. Leaflets are available in church giving details of what to do. So come on Christ Church, let's see what we can do! – target 100 by October 31st (this ensures Christmas delivery). Alternatively, make up a box with a friend or donate several items to be added to other boxes – with your help we look forward to providing Blythswood with a mountain of shoeboxes.

Veronica Read

A CHURCH WARDEN'S NOTES

From time to time I read obituaries that really show the fullness of a life led. Last week I read just such an obituary, and felt I should share it with readers of the magazine.

Phyllis Thom, born Phyllis Mary Elizabeth Briggs in Bexhill-on-Sea and having just celebrated her 100th birthday in June, died on September 16th. Her father was a chaplain in Paris, but Phyllis was orphaned in her early teens. She took up nursing as a career, working first in Manchester and then London, but she had a passion for travel, and was, by 1941, working in Malaya with the Colonial Nursing Service. As the Japanese invasion began she was evacuated to Singapore, and thence on to a ship bound for Australia. The voyage was curtailed when the ship was captured, and all passengers dumped on a jetty in Sumatra, without food or water, before being marched to their first prison camp.

Trials and tribulations followed: during the next 3 ½ years she, like thousands of other women and children, endured endless hunger, pointless cruelty, hardship and indignity in prison camps barely fit for animals. At one point she became seriously ill and almost died; but she and five other nurses devoted themselves to the care of other prisoners. At one point the five of them cared for 500 male prisoners. Three years after being left on the jetty she found herself back there, but in a custom-built camp with proper kitchens, a far cry from what she had had to endure until then. As the Japanese surrender came, her camp commandant announced that "Now we will be friends".

Her captivity featured in the TV series *Tenko* (the answer she had to give at daily roll call); in the film *Paradise Road*; and a book, *Women Beyond the Wire*.

She returned to nursing in Malaya in 1946; the following year she married Robbie Thom (who died in 1967). She retired to Bournemouth where she became a volunteer for Barnado's.

Peter Shearan



HOPE 08

St Paul's United Reformed Church in Singlewell Road, will display work by amateur art groups in the area on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th October. Entry is £1, which will cover the cost of lighting and heating the church. Contact Roger Kohn on 01474 813145 for further information.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

QE2 at Sea!

14. 9. 2008

The Vicar Dudley Benbow married us at Christ Church on the 6th September 1958. I, (Pamela) lived with my parents, Olive and Jack Homes, in Lamorna Avenue. Bobby's parents, Molly and Reg Lunnon and his sister, lived in Laurel Avenue.

Very much part of Christ Church life, we had met at the Youth Club which Bobby helped to run (at Dudley's request) whilst he was a student at King's College, London. He was commuting from Gravesend at the time. Subsequently, he had been ordained and was serving at St. Michael's Maidstone.

After our marriage we spent four years in Deal, followed by parishes in Sturry, near Canterbury, Thornton Heath, near Croydon and finally Orpington. We have made our home in Deal since retiring in 1996. We have two sons and two daughters, who have given us ten wonderful grandchildren including triplets.

Earlier this year an idea blossomed in our minds that it would be rather lovely to return to Gravesend to celebrate our Golden Wedding. We came to a Sunday morning Eucharist a few months ago, met some old friends and tentatively made noises to the current team about our idea. We couldn't have met with greater kindness and courtesy. Miraculously and with unfailing help and imagination our plans fell wonderfully into place.

And so, on the 6th September – a Saturday – to the day we stood in the very same place for a Service giving thanks and praise to God for all the blessings and upholding we have received during these fifty years. Some friends from those Christ Church days were among those able to be with us for this Service which was followed by a lunch in the hall. It was great to return to this area which held so many memories for us both. We had a wonderfully happy day.

We wish to say thankyou so very much to everyone who assisted and encouraged us – to Joan, Vivien, Janice and your vicar Sue Brewer.

Pamela and Bobby Lunnon.

First Steps

17/9/08

Our First Steps service is a week later than usual this month because I managed to take a holiday at the wrong time. Oops!! Anne is the first to arrive with Isabel who is very keen to know where our naughty little sheep is hiding himself. Lo and behold we soon discover him standing precariously on the pulpit in exactly the same place that I discovered him on Sunday. He had been lurking there for the whole of Harvest Thanksgiving Service and no one had noticed him! What a naughty sheep!

Other children begin to arrive for our service. Helen is going to play the piano for us and Tilly is keeping an eye on her to make sure that she's up to her usual standard. We carefully carry our naughty sheep down from the pulpit and Caitlin very kindly offers to look after him. And he promises faithfully to be good for her. As we sing "Candletime" we light the candles on our little altar including a special one for Nancy who has just started school and one for my Mum, who is now making excellent progress after her fall and hip operation. Then, thinking about our Harvest and looking at the lovely fruit and flowers in the Church, we sing our songs with lots of enthusiastic jingling of bells. And of course, we say "Thank you" to God for some of the wonderful gifts that He gives to us each day. Among other things we even say "Thank you" for chickens and frogs. And so we should!

When the candles are carefully blown out and our service is over, the children are each given a picture of a bowl of yummy fruit to colour in at home and we all go into the Hall for a drink and a biscuit, thanks to Joyce who is now slaving away in the kitchen. The children have a chance to play with toys and run around and the Mum's have a chance to chat with each other too and catch up on the news. We've had a lovely time together as we always do. Our naughty little sheep whispers to me that he has had a really good time. Lily took him for a little walk around the Hall earlier but now he's feeling really tired and needs a rest. But he is looking forward to seeing the children again at our next service on 8th October at 2.00pm when we will be thinking about Homes and Families. He's hoping to see a few new faces there too. We'll all look forward to seeing you there.

Rosemay Austin.



Choir

Music at Christ Church

Music Group

The summer is more or less over now Harvest has come and gone, and we are concentrating on what's ahead.



The Choir take part each year in the Diocesan Evensong. This requires us to attend an Area rehearsal in advance and also on the day of this special Evensong.

Rehearsal on the day, Saturday October 18th will be at 2pm, The service will take place at 5.15pm until 6.20pm

Another opportunity for us to hone our singing skills is the 3 day Singing Course at the Cathedral on 27th, 28th and 29th October. This is led by Nigel Groom ARSCM, a well known, very skilled and entertaining musician who puts us through our paces. We learn new music and manage to make a very nice sound each year. Each day we sing evensong at 5.30pm

It is a very nice service and well worth coming to for the music and worship.

Pam Kilby

With Harvest behind us, we are now looking to learning some new songs and carols for Christmas. We will of course be singing some more traditional carols as well as some different arrangements of well known ones.

It gets harder each year to find new music for small groups, so if you feel you could swell our ranks then please speak to Helen, if you are a tenor or a bass, Helen would dearly love to hear from you!



Gill Campbell

ARTHUR PICKERING

Decd 17.9.2008

It is with great sadness that we say good bye to Arthur. Arthur was a member of Christ Church Choir from a small boy at the original site of Christ Church. He was a faithful member of the Choir all his life. He was very supportive of the young boys who came to sing in the Choir. He had the most beautiful Bass voice which was both a pleasure to hear and to sing with as part of the Choir. Arthur received the Royal Society of Church Music special Long Service Loyalty medal.

Arthur's father was Verger at Christ Church and his son also used to sing in the Choir. Arthur was very well known in the local area, having lived in Gravesend all his life. Our thoughts and prayers are with Pearl and his family at this very sad time.

May He Rest In Peace

Pam Kilby

Countdown to the Christmas Bazaar

On 28th September: Please have a look through your cupboards and drawers at home for jewellery and toiletries you can bring to church on 5th October for the Christmas Bazaar. There is a red box at the back of the church for your donations.

On 5th October: On 12th October we are especially collecting items for the kitchen and candles for the Christmas Bazaar. There is a red box at the back of the church for your donations.

On 12th October: Please look out adults and children's books and bottles for the Christmas Bazaar. Bring them on 19th October and put in the red box at the back of the church.

On 19th October: Please have a look through your cupboards and drawers at home for items for the white elephant and entertainment stalls (videos, DVD.s CD's etc.) you can bring to church on 26th October for the Christmas Bazaar. There is a red box at the back of the church for your donations.

On 26th October: Please turn out your cupboards and drawers for toys, games, puzzles and pictures for the Christmas Bazaar. Bring them on 2nd November to put in the red box at the back of the church.

Saturday
8th
November: We need cakes and home made
the day of preserves etc.
the bazaar.



A Year in the Life of Christ Church – DVD.

Ray Green hopes to record a year in the Life of Christ Church. To do this he may be seen creeping around during the services and parish events and asks for your patience with this!

He would be delighted to hear your comments on this project including suggestions for what to include.

Let Ray, or the Editor know how you feel about this idea and how it could be used to promote aspects of Christ Church in the community.



Christ Church Christmas Bazaar

Echo Square, Gravesend

Saturday November 8th

Doors open 10.30am.

Admission 30p

Games

Raffles

Gifts

Refreshments

Cakes

Father Christmas

White elephant

Raffles drawn at approx. 12.00.

GROWING IN MINISTRY

Arrival Days offer an opportunity to explore your spirituality and calling in the company of others from the Diocese. The day is free and is usually on a Saturday between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

If you have wondered whether God might be calling you to a new role or ministry in the church, this is the place to start.

The next Arrival Days are:

- 4th October at Christ Church, Chislehurst
- 15th November at St Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood
- 10th January at St Peter's Church, Hextable

Sue has application forms – have a word if you are interested.

An Ecumenical Service for

Animal Welfare



Rochester Cathedral, Rochester, ME1 1SX

Saturday 4th October 2008
(World Animal Day)
at 3.15pm

Speaker: Rt Revd Dr Michael Nazir-Ali

ADMISSION FREE - ALL WELCOME

Further Information from:

The Secretary

Anglican Society for the Welfare of Animals,
PO Box 7193, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 8GT

AngSocWelAnimals@aol.com • www.aswa.org.uk • Tel: (01252) 843093

CCADS



CCADS Christmas production
November 27th, 28th and 29th

CCADS are proud and pleased to announce the forthcoming production of A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens. Well actually, it is the Ladies from the Farndale Avenue Townswomens Guild's version of A Christmas Carol! With Mrs Rees and her Ladies in charge of the script, anything can happen.

Full details will be given in next months magazine – so make a note of the dates and watch this space!!

CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

BOWLING
DISCO
FILM NITE
ANGEL SPACE
CRAFT
GAMES

LAUNCH NITE
PIZZA PARTY
SUNDAY
5 OCTOBER 2008

Sunday Evening
6 - 8 PM Yr6 - Yr10+

register at ccyouth@blueyonder.co.uk

Rev Sue Brewer 01474 352643

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

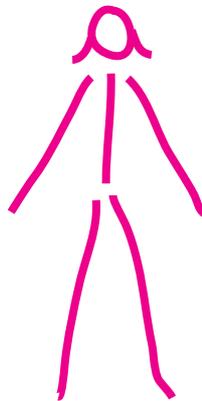
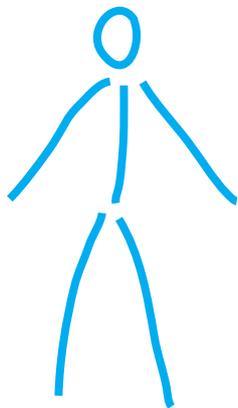
Take-home sheet

FOR PARENTS

Bible passage

Matthew 22.1-14

It is a parable about a wedding banquet that none of the guests attend. Servants are sent out to get some more guests but one is removed for not being suitably dressed.



These people have been invited to the feast. Draw on the outfits you think they should wear.

Living faith

God wants us to share the feast.

This week you could:

Help make the dinner. Offer to help whoever usually cooks, remember only to do as asked, to stay safe.

Help to make your family's packed lunches. You could add an extra treat from you!

Make some cakes for your friends or family. If you can't cook then lay the table or help with the washing up.



FRIDGE PRAYER

Thank you, God, that we are all invited to your feast. Thank you for all the fantastic things that you provide for us. Please help us to invite someone to join in at your feast. Amen.

Talk about...

Who do you know that you could invite to share God's feast next time you go? Does it matter how we act or dress when we go to church?



Book to read together
Nancy Rue, *Lily's Ultimate Party*, Zondervan, 2001, ISBN 978-0310232537.

Gardening Tips for October

Now is the time to reflect and to put the effects of this years terrible summer behind. Gardening has always been the hobby of optimistic and resilient people, and to consider, that after the last two bad summers, next year must be better!

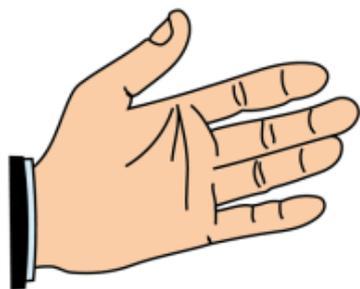


Keep clearing fallen leaves from grass areas, do not wait until any surrounding trees have completed their leaf drop. Continue to mow grass, not below 1 inch whenever the surface is dry enough.

October is the month to clean up, remove the summer bedding, cut down herbaceous plants, reduce by half, bush roses that can be loosened by autumn and winter winds and prune back climbing roses to reduce their bulk. Rose pruning for shape and bloom will be done in the spring,

When the soil is reasonably workable, continue to plant winter bedding and complete bulb planting. Tulip bulbs can be left until the middle of November if necessary.

Adam



Helpers needed.....

We need one more youth club helper – could it be you? The commitment will be one Sunday evening per month in term-time, working in a team of 3.

Also, one more crèche helper to look after the little ones during the Sunday morning 10am service. With one more helper the rota will only come around once every 2 months.

And someone to clean the silver – communion vessels and so on – 3 times a year... Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

Please don't hang back – we need you!

...also... the Deanery needs a volunteer to take delivery of the bundles of 'Link' newspaper each month, for all the Gravesend churches, and store them for collection by the various church reps. Needs to be someone with an accessible porch, garage or shed. Speak to Sue if you can help.

Holy Baptism

Suffer little children to come unto me

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 3rd August | Daisy Kathleen Brown Tylor Fissenden Holly Jasmine Almonte Ruby Jayne Almonte Jonathan Charles Wylie |
| 17th August | Emma Jane Downton Ruby Jane Smith Isabel Lock William Frederick Spencer Pettis |
| 7th Sept. | Rai'en Helen Buss Sophie Christine Moore-Jackson |
| 21st Sept | Shanna Magie-Lou Hovell Holly Taylor |

Holy Matrimony

We congratulate

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 8th August | James Colin Goatham and Laura Elizabeth Hulme |
| 16th August | Darren Jason Laming and Katherine Mary Reed |
| 23rd August | Matthew Bruce and Paula Mary Webber |
| 23rd August | Scott Hermitage and Maria Hicks |
| 30th August | Ryan Toulson and Julie Amanda Davis |
| 6th Sept | Mark James Ellis and Laura Charlotte Wells |
| 6th Sept | Scott James Plumridge and Marie Anne Parr |
| 13th Sept | Lubormir Franz and Lauren Leanne Climpson |
| 20th Sept | Matthew Newnes and Rebecca Charlotte Aspinall |

Rest In Peace

We commend to our Lord

| | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| 1st July | Beatrice May Oldacre |
| 17th July | Alfred Jewsbury |
| 27th July | Walter Thomas Burrow |
| 28th July | Sylvia Rosalie Butler |
| 28th August | Vera Larner |
| 2nd Sept | Jamie Leigh Harrington |

Julie Hill

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

During the next few months there will be a variety of styles of worship at the Sunday evening services at Christ Church. As well as many services that are 'perennials' and familiar to many, and the usual regular opportunities to worship with our brothers and sisters of the Deanery and the local ecumenical group, there will also be some changes.

Why not come and join us, for instance, at a sung service with prayer for healing in October?

There will no longer be an evening service in Christ Church every week – to check times and details take a look at the weekly notice sheet, the website or this magazine.



Evening Services between October and Christmas:

- 28th September 6.30 pm Deanery Choirs Festival at Southfleet
5th October 6 pm Songs of Praise at the Salvation Army Citadel with the Local Ecumenical Group of churches
12th October 6.30 pm Sung service with prayer for healing
2nd November 6.30 pm Authorisation of Pam Kilby as a Pastoral Assistant at St Alban's Church, Dartford
9th November 4 pm Service for the Bereaved
23rd November 4 pm Pre-advent worship at St Mary, Denton with the Local Ecumenical Group of churches
30th November 4 pm Christingle
7th December 4 pm Ellenor Hospice - Lights of Love service
14th December 6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight
21st December 6.30 pm Service of lessons and carols

Please support and pray for Pam as she is authorised as a PA on 2nd November at St Alban's Church, Dartford.

PA's (Pastoral Assistants) are those in whom the Church has discerned special gifts for pastoral care in the Church and wider community. Pam may be involved in baptisms, bereavement visiting, visiting the housebound and sick and joins the staff team.

What's on this month?

October

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Highlights this month ! Christian Aid Breakfast | | Youth Club Launch  | 1 MU 8pm Guides | 2 Beavers Brownies Choir | 3 Scouts Office hours CCADS | 4 9:30 am- Working Party |
| 5 Youth Club starts 6 -8pm Songs of Praise | 6 Cubs Brownies Music group 8 pm | 7 | 8 First Steps Guides | 9 Beavers Brownies Choir | 10 Scouts Office hours CCADS | 11 |
| 12 Christian Aid breakfast 8:30 Healing service 6.30 Youth Club | 13 Cubs Brownies Music group 8 pm | 14 Staff meeting | 15 Guides | 16 Beavers Brownies Choir | 17 Scouts Office Hours CCADS | 18 Art Exhibition St Paul's church |
| 19 Art Exhibition St Paul's church Youth Club | 20 Brownies Cubs | 21 | 22 Guides | 23 Beavers Brownies Choir | 24 Scouts Office hours CCADS | 25 |
| 26 Deadline for magazine entry Youth Club | 27 Brownies Cubs | 28 Staff meeting | 29 Guides | 30 Beavers Brownies Choir | 31 Scouts Office Hours CCADS | |

What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday Uniformed Organisations parade

Evening Service - see inside magazine for details.

Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Monday and Saturday 8am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.

Wednesday 10.00am

For further information
contact
the Church Wardens

Office hours

Friday 6:30pm until 7:30pm

Please note that Office hours changed in March.

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; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)

First Steps (under 5's and carers) 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