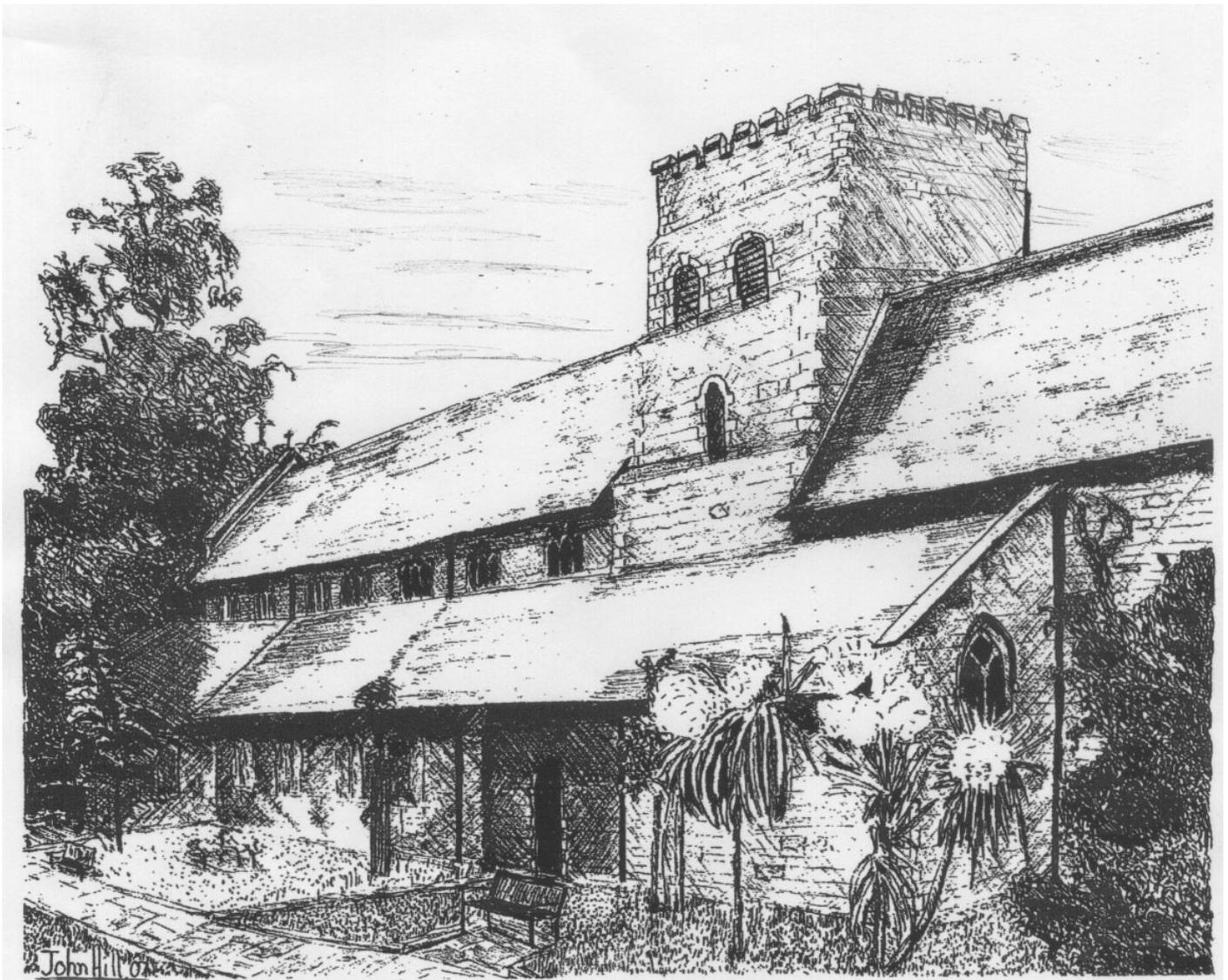


CHRIST CHURCH

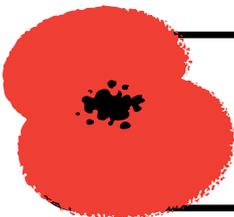
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

November
2008



Remembrance Sunday
9th November

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 December magazine: Sunday 23rd November .
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,
or email: ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop

Inside this month's magazine

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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



Looking around at the wonderful colours of the trees during autumn is a sight to behold. Colours have and will grace the skies over Gravesend during the next few days as the Sikh and Hindu community celebrates Diwali and everyone remembers Guy Fawkes. Just a couple of weeks ago

St Paul's United Reform Church held a splendid art show as part of HOPE08, one of the paintings depicted just a small section of a wonderful rainbow.

If you go on-line and see the magazine on the web site

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk you will see:-

The Red Poppy for Remembrance Sunday on the cover; The Red ribbon for World Aids Day on page 5; our Choir in their Red robes on page 8 and a Red box to remind us of our Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 8th November.

Editor

Peter Wibroe



At the morning service on November 30th we shall be thanking Peter for his time as Assistant Priest at Christ Church. Peter is taking time out from this ministry to concentrate on his job as a headteacher. His preaching, especially, will be a real loss to us all. Best wishes for the future Peter.

Editor

Christmas Shoe Box Collection



Veronica Read

CCADS

It is with deep regret that the Farndale ladies are unable to go ahead with their production of A Christmas Carol, in November. But do not worry, all being well we will be back on the stage to perform it in the Spring!

A CHURCH WARDEN'S NOTES

It's the 21st October, and another anniversary has passed in my life. Yesterday happened to be the 59th anniversary of my joining the Army, courtesy of the National Service Act of 1948, which said that I should serve my country for a period of eighteen months. As it happened, I actually did so for over 23 years, but that's another story!

I was thinking about that just now when, as I was putting the car into the garage, a gentleman asked if I could show him how to get to Parrock Street. It turned out that he had been an orphan in the Milton Mount orphanage which occupied the side of Windmill Hill overlooking Echo Square. The orphanage was run by the Roman Catholic Southwark Rescue Society. He began reminiscing about his days there: the walks they used to take, the boys' games they used to play over at the quarry in Northfleet, the days out to Allhallows-on-Sea ("Allhallows-on Mud' we used to call it"). He recalled the farms where now there are houses; and walking down past the old Christ Church, through the little lane to the Promenade. He had a very uncomplimentary name for it, although its official name was (and is) Love Lane.

He described the orphanage grounds: the playing field at the top and the group of buildings lower down, grouped around a round flower-bed; the exact location of the nuns' accommodation. All now gone, replaced by Glen View (I have often wondered what sort of glen it was: the house at the top obviously had some sort of glen-like view!), but in his mind it was still there.

And all our minds are like that, aren't they? We have vivid recollections of places we left long ago; and yet when we get there - and at the best - they are always smaller or less imposing than we remember; or like him, they are entirely swept away. I suppose "... 'tis little joy/ To know I'm farther off from heaven/Than when I was boy"

Peter Shearan October 2008

'Golden Oldie'

Hospital regulations require a wheel chair for patients being discharged. While working as a student nurse, I found one elderly gentleman already dressed and sitting on the bed with a suitcase at his feet, who insisted he didn't need my help to leave hospital.

After a chat about rules being rules, he reluctantly let me wheel him to the elevator. On the way I asked him if his wife was meeting him.

"I don't know", he said. "She's still upstairs in the bathroom changing out of her hospital gown."

Thanks to John Thrush for this .

Remembering Loved Ones

Around All Souls there will be two opportunities to remember loved ones who have died. On Monday 3rd November at 7:30 pm there will be a service of Holy Communion in commemoration of the departed. On Sunday 9th November at 4 pm there will be a service for the bereaved ... This will be a simple service with well-known hymns and prayers and a cup of tea afterwards.

Names of those who are being remembered will be read out at both these services. If you would like a name read out, please write it clearly on the appropriate list at the back of the church.

Those remembered will not necessarily have died recently and it makes no difference whether or not the funeral was held here.

Pam Kilby Authorisation



Pam Kilby will be authorised as a Pastoral Assistant to this parish at a service on 2nd November at 6:30 pm at St

Alban's Church, Dartford.

Pam trained for PA ministry in Southwark Diocese, and will be the first PA to serve at Christ Church. It is a big day for her and all of us. Please put the date in your diary and come and support her. If you want - or can offer - a lift, please sign the list at the back of the church.

World Aids Day

The 1st of December, World AIDS Day, is the day when individuals and organisations from around the world come together to bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic. 2008 marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. Whilst we have come a long way since 1988, there is still much more to be done.



20th Anniversary

1998 - 2008

About the National AIDS Trust

NAT is the UK's leading charity dedicated to transforming society's response to HIV. We provide fresh thinking, expert advice and practical resources. We campaign for change.

Shaping attitudes. Challenging injustice. Changing lives.

Our vision is a world in which people living with HIV are treated as equal citizens with respect, dignity and justice, are diagnosed early and receive the highest standards of care, and in which everyone knows how and is able to protect themselves from HIV infection.

First Steps

8/10/08

My goodness me, it's that time again! It's the second Wednesday in October and it is time for our First Steps service. Our naughty little sheep is very excited! He really looks forward to seeing the children and their carers. He actually put in an appearance when our Pre-school children came into the Church this morning; he so wanted to take part and promised me faithfully that he would be very good. He told me afterwards that he thought that the children were very good too, especially those who have only just come into the Pre-school. So "well done" to them all! He's asked me if he can come in with me next time. We shall see!

Anyway, back to First Steps where Julie and I are busy getting everything ready. Rev Sue is busy today and she isn't able to join us, which is a pity. Nancy and Martha are the first to arrive, coming in with Kay their mum. Nancy has brought me a special present because it is her very last visit to First Steps (except perhaps for the school holidays). She is looking really smart in her new school uniform, because she has already been to school this morning. Nancy has also brought back the picture of a basket of fruit from our last service, now beautifully coloured in. She writes her name on it and I carefully pin it up at the back of the church.

Some of the older children are now arriving with their mums and soon we have a lovely crowd. There are some of our well-known and much loved regulars as well as some new additions to our flock. Ella has come along for the first time, with little brother William and their Mum and Gretel has come all the way from Swanscombe with her two little boys, Chidi and Tobe. Our naughty little sheep is really pleased to see everyone. He is being very good standing on our little altar and trying hard not to jiggle about with excitement. He's also keeping a close eye on Tobe's furry rabbit to make sure he behaves himself too.



When everyone is settled with jingle bells we begin our service. Marian is very kindly playing the piano for us today. I light our candles as we sing the first verse of "Candle Time" and I light a special candle for Daniel because it is going to be his first birthday tomorrow. Of course we sing "Happy Birthday" to him, wishing him a lovely day. Then we think about "Homes and Families" singing "Thank you God for the people we Love". And when we sing, "I love eating", we think about the lovely things that we do with our families

like eating together, having fun together and caring for each other. We thank God for all of the wonderful things that he gives us each day.

When our service is over and Daniel's Nanny has helped him to blow out his candle, we all go through into the hall for a drink and a biscuit and some time to chat and play. Our naughty little sheep is standing quietly on the serving hatch. He whispers to me that he is rather hoping that someone will play with him or take him for a little walk, but the children are having such a good time playing with the toys and with each other that no one notices him standing there looking hopeful. Poor little chap!

Very soon it is time to go; the afternoon has flown by. The children are taking home a picture of a house, for them to colour in. We hope that it will remind them of the happy time we have spent together, thinking about our homes and families and Gods love for us all. I hope that we'll all be back again on the 12th November for our next First Steps service when we'll be hearing the story of Noah's Ark. I know that our naughty little sheep will be very interested in that and he tells me that he's hoping that Tobe will bring his rabbit to join us. So we'll look forward to seeing you there.

Rosemay Austin

Birthday of Guru Nanak 13th November

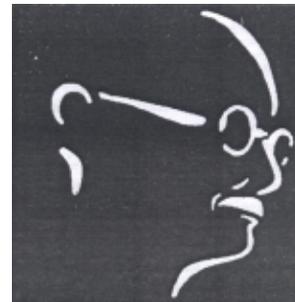
This day celebrates the first Sikh guru, and is marked by reading the Sikh holy book, the Granth Sahib.

Note : The birth date of Guru Nanak was 15 April 1469, but it is traditionally celebrated in November.

In certain parts of the world people still pray in the streets. In this country they're called pedestrians!



Gandhi's List of 7 Deadly Sins



- Wealth without work
- Pleasure without conscience
- Science without humanity
- Knowledge without character
- Politics without principle
- Commerce without morality
- Worship without sacrifice

CHOIR FESTIVALS

The autumn is a time for Choir Festivals. On Sunday September 28th our

Choir took part in the Deanery Choirs Festival at St Nicholas Southfleet. Our Vicar Sue was the Preacher this year and she spoke about Choirs having a particular Ministry within their Churches.

Choirs can enhance the worship experience for people and many do say that the music makes a difference for them individually as well as members of the Congregation.

The Diocesan Choirs Festival took place in the Cathedral on Saturday October 18th. A group from Our Choir took part, joining with the 340 singers



from all over the Diocese representing 45 different Church Choirs plus the Cathedral Choristers. The Cathedral was packed! At 2pm we

started Rehearsing music for Evensong which included Anthems, a Psalm, the Magnificat and the Nunc Dimittis. We learned a new setting for the Office of Evensong and some hymns

that were new to us. We had a short tea break in the afternoon and then we all processed into the Cathedral from the outside looking very colourful in our different robes. We all thoroughly enjoyed singing Evensong and were particularly pleased to be supported by Priest Jacqueline and several members of our Congregation.

Pam Kilby

Rehearsals are well under way for Christmas. December will be a busy month for us as we will be taking part in a number of services including the Ellenor Lights of Love Service, carol singing in the St Georges Centre, and a service of Lessons and Carols. We have some new songs to learn and some old ones to brush up on!

If you feel you would like to join us then please speak to Helen, especially if you are male!

Music Group



Gill Campbell

Countdown to the Christmas Bazaar

On 2nd
November Toys, Games & Puzzles; Pictures / Artwork

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



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.

Church Garden Update

Many, many thanks to John Thrush who has dug and dug and dug in the gardens at the back of the church, spending hours clearing weeds and rubble in order to be able to plant.

He dug up (literally) a huge stone which appears to be a memorial.

Does anyone have any information about it please?

He's good at planting too!

Lesley Harries



All of the borders round the back of the church have now been dug over and barrow loads of bricks and rubble have been removed. One of the interesting finds in the border was a large 1st World War Memorial tablet. Unfortunately weathering has made the writing illegible but we are hoping that somewhere in the archives we can find a copy of what the inscription and names on the tablet were. If anyone would like to look at it or can throw any light on it then please go round the back of the church to the border by the Garden of Remembrance.

The borders round the back contain poor quality soil and facing N.W. are constantly in the shade. Our aim is to fill them with spreading perennials whilst the shrubs mature and eventually fill the space. We hope to have a variety of colour (useful for our flower arrangers) as well as seasonal interest.

For the gardeners among you the following have so far been planted:-

Shrubs: Viburnum trees –
'Eve Price' and 'Purpwen'.
Aucuba Japonica (Laurel)
Photrea – 'Red Robin'
Vinca minor (Periwinkle)

Perennials: Chinese lanterns,
Japanese Anemones
and Perennial Clematis.



Other shrubs etc. will be planted in due course both in the back and in the side border. Opposite the hall, the digging of which is nearly completed.

Finally John would like to thank all those of you who use him as a volunteer driver as your contributions go towards the renovation of the church gardens.

Lesley Harries, John and Anne Thrush.

GROWING IN MINISTRY

The Anglican Society For the Welfare of Animals

held its annual service at Rochester Cathedral this year.

The ecumenical service, which was held on World Animal Day (Saturday 4th October), was very enjoyable as well as informative and moving.

For more information about the work of the A.S.W.A. Please go to www.aswa.org.uk or telephone (01252) 843093

Jackie Howard

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.

Will Aid 2008

Will Aid offers parishioners the opportunity to write or update their will for a reasonable donation to charity. Participating solicitors waive their fees to draw up a basic will during the month of November, and instead ask their clients to make a donation to Will Aid charities. Suggested donations include £75 for one person or £110 for mirror wills for a couple.

Sue has more details, or see the poster in the church porch or visit www.willaid.org.uk, or ring the local participating solicitor – Martin Tolhurst Partnership LLP, 325531.

CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

There was great excitement on the evening of 5th October with the the launch of the youth club and that was just the leaders. 20 young people and 8 not quite so young met in the hall to enjoy each other's company, play games and eat pizza.

Week 2 saw the young people playing games and puzzles, then everyone enjoyed The Simpson's Movie on week 3. We are all going bowling on 2nd November, other activities are planned.

FOR PARENTS

Bible reading

Matthew 25.1-13

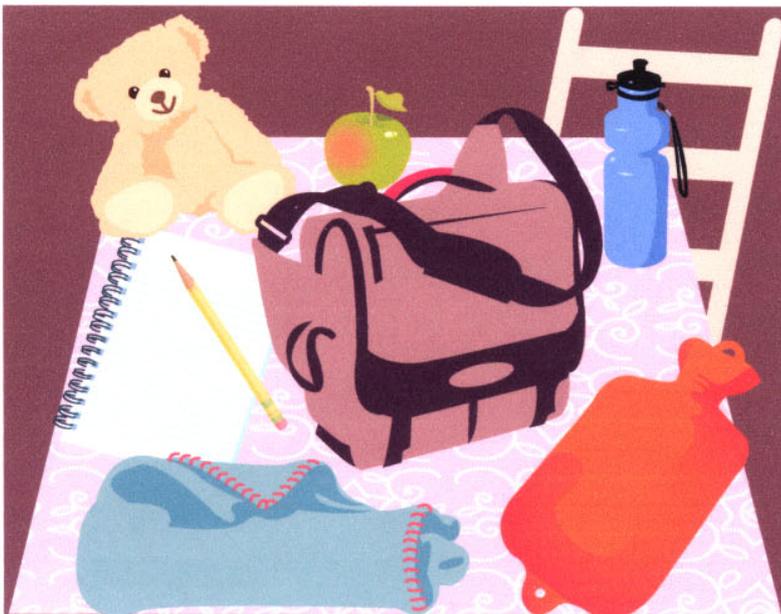
This week, Jesus tells the parable of the bridesmaids. Half of them had oil for their lamps and half did not. Those who were not prepared were left out of the celebrations.

We think about what we should do to be prepared and ready to welcome Jesus.

FRIDGE PRAYER

Help us, Lord, to be ready, to be willing, and to be able to welcome you when you arrive. Amen.

Activity



What do you need to get ready? Draw a line to the bag from everything you should put in to take to school.

Talk about...

Have you ever missed something because you were not ready?
 How do you prepare for a special day?
 What would you do if you are ready for a special event but other people are not?

Living faith

Find out about the groups that have 'Be prepared' as their motto. What do they do?



Book to read

Mike Haines and David Melling, *Fidget and Quilly Are You Ready?* 2003, ISBN 978-0340851975.

Gardening Tips for November

Autumn's here, Winter is just around the corner the time when all gardeners must exhibit fortitude and undauntable character ! In spite of adverse weather, leaves and debris must be cleared especially from lawns and beds. Pots and other containers must be raised an inch or so to allow their drainage holes to work efficiently. Plants are not usually killed by cold but by their compost becoming waterlogged and drowning them.



This month is an ideal time to plant up or repot to larger containers. Drainage consideration must be paramount, plenty of crock or irregular shaped pieces of Polystyrene in the bottom, then a loam based, free draining John Innes No 2 compost for the plants to grow in . Don't forget, if lime hating shrubs are to be planted i.e. Rhododendron, Azaleas, Ericas , then an Ericaceous – lime free- compost must be used.

Adam



When Betty spoke in her Sermon recently about Quiet Days and Retreats she mentioned how I had really benefited from going on a weekend silent Retreat at West Malling Abbey. The Services you attend from early morning till late evening, the singing of the Nuns, the quietness and peacefulness of the gardens all stay with you long afterwards. I have kept details of my stay and would be very happy to give further details if you are think a Retreat appeals to you.

We have a Mothers' Union Quiet Morning at Church every year lead by Betty, which again is in silence. If you have not been before it is well worth the experience.

Maureen Fittill.

HYMN SINGING



A policeman was driving around in his patrol car when he decided to call in and see his mother. He knocked on the door and his mother shouted "Who is it?" And the policeman replied,

"It's me ma, me ma."

Evening Services in November

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



Christmas at Christ Church

Sunday 7th December 4 pm
CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 14th December 6.30 p.m.
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT
- A Concert of Christmas Music

Friday 19th December 7.00 p.m.
COME AND SING!
- informal Carol singing in church
and in the community

Sunday 21st December 6.30 p.m.
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS
- a traditional Carol Service
(During this service, there will be an opportunity to
remember loved ones who will be missed this Christmas)

CHRISTMAS EVE 4.00 p.m.
CRIB SERVICE
- A Service especially for children

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 p.m.
MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY 8.00 a.m.
HOLY COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00 a.m.
FAMILY COMMUNION WITH CAROLS

What's on this month?

November

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| <p>30 St Andrews Day</p> <p>First Sunday in Advent</p> | <p>1 Dec World Aids Day</p> | <p>Highlights this month!</p> <p>Christmas Bazaar</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday</p>  | | | | <p>1 All Saints Day</p> <p>9:30 am-Working Party</p> |
| <p>2 Youth Club goes bowling</p> <p>Authorisation of Pam Kilby</p> | <p>3 Cubs Brownies</p> <p>All Souls Eucarist 7:30 pm</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5 Bonfire Night</p> <p>MU 8 pm</p> <p>Guides</p> | <p>6 Beavers Brownies Choir</p> | <p>7 Scouts</p> <p>Office hours CCADS</p> | <p>8</p> <p>10:30 Christmas Bazaar</p> <p>Lord Mayors Show London</p> |
| <p>9 Remembrance Sunday</p> <p>Service for bereaved Youth Club</p> | <p>10 Cubs Brownies Music group 8 pm</p> | <p>11  Remembrance Day</p> <p>Staff meeting</p> | <p>12 Guides</p> <p>First Steps</p> | <p>13 Birthday of Guru Nanak</p> <p>Beavers Brownies Choir</p> | <p>14 Children in Need</p> <p>Scouts Office Hours CCADS</p> | <p>15 Ebbsfleet v Barrow</p> <p>RMA Dinner</p> |
| <p>16 Youth Club</p> | <p>17 Brownies Cubs</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19 Guides</p> | <p>20 Beavers Brownies Choir</p> | <p>21 Scouts</p> <p>Office hours CCADS</p> | <p>22</p> |
| <p>23 Deadline for magazine entry</p> <p>Youth Club</p> | <p>24 Brownies Cubs</p> | <p>25</p> | <p>26 Guides</p> | <p>27 Beavers Brownies Choir</p> | <p>28 Scouts</p> <p>Office Hours CCADS</p> | <p>29</p> |

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

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