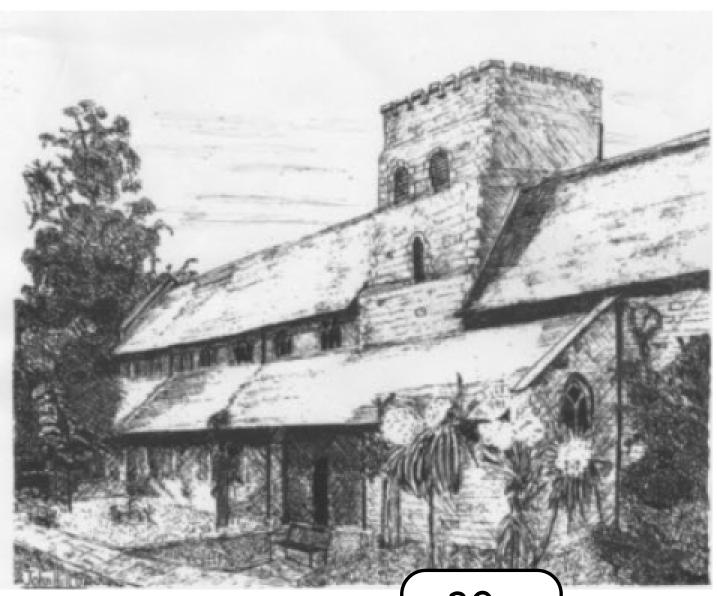


CHRIST CHURCH MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



Christian
Christ

30p

or donation John Hill 2007

Na4 010

Christ Church	www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk		
Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com	
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106	
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693	
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443	
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215	
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265	
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	323515	
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702	
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339	
Reader	John Hougham	352138	
Reader	Betty Martin	352696	
Reader	Martin Sewell 745443		

Deadline for April magazine: Sunday 23rd May.

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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Page 3 Welcome,

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Page 14 Music, CCADS, Gardening Tips

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Page 16 Back Page

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

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

Quotable quotes:

Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.

Herbert Henry Asquith.

What would men be without women? Scarce, sirmighty scarce.

Mark Twain



As April showers bring on May flowers, check out what Gardening Tips Adam has for you this month on Page 14 and see Leslie Harries Church Garden Update on page 6.

Angela Kirby tells us about a Child Protection course attended on page 5 and asks for our support as she and daughter Jenna start collecting sponsors for the Race for Life (page 10). See what Vicar Sue had to say at the APCM with her Review of the Year 2009 on pages 11, 12 and 13.

Thursday 6th May is General Election Day, but don't forget The Christian Aid Breakfast on Sunday 9th and the Royal Marine Association Service on 16th May.

Editor

Church publishes prayer for voters ahead of the General Election

The Church of England has published prayers to help voters as they consider their options in the forthcoming General Election. The prayers remind voters that they can make a difference, ask that the concerns of all may be heard and seek protection from despair and cynicism.

The prayer, for personal use or during church services, is one of those specially written by the Mission and Public Affairs Division and the Communications Office in association with National Worship Development Officer the Rev Peter Moger.

Loving God,

Thank you for caring about how our country is run, and that we have the right to vote for our politicians and government.

But in the run-up to this general election there are so many policies to understand, and so many different points of view to consider -

Sometimes I wonder whether there's any point in voting, whether anyone cares what I think.

As I choose who I am going to vote for,

help me not to be cynical about politics and politicians,

help me to remember that my vote can make a difference,

and help me vote for those people who will protect the poor and vulnerable, and do all they can to make our nation a place of fairness and peace.

Because you call us to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The prayers, alongside details of relevant debates in the General Synod over the last five years and what people have been saying about voting, can be read in full at: http://www.cofe.anglican.org/generalelection/.

The Very Revd Adrian Newman

Dean of Rochester



Many thanks for your continued support of the Ellenor Lions Hospices. Registered Charity No. 1121561

COFFEE MORNINGS

Cold Harbour Road 10 am to 12 pm

Friday 28th May

Friday 25th June

Friday 24th September

Friday 29th October

Friday 26th November

Friday 10th December

Advance Notice

Dates for your diary:-

June

Sunday 6th Healing Service / East

Gravesnd Ecumenical

Service St Paul's

Saturday 12th Working Party

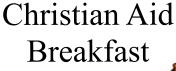
Sunday 13th All age service / Choir

supper

Saturday 19th Summer Fete

Mid June Over 80's summer outing





Sunday 9th May

at

8:30am

in the Church Hall.
All Welcome

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

2nd May Week 8 Colin & Linda Parsonson, Anne Thrush
9th May Week 9 Jerry and Sally Higgins, Maylene Ewin
16th May Week 10 Pauline Marks, Margot Edwards, Angela Kirby C
23rd May Week 11 Rita Smith, Jean Stoddart, Sheila Knight
30th May Week 12 Sylvia Brown, Margaret Davies, Maria Watson

6th June Week 1 Vena Croydon, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson



Maureen Fittell

Child Protection Training:

In March Angela Kirby attended a Child Protection Course and has been kind enough to share her thoughts about the course.

About CCPAS

My kids are growing up very fast, (as they have a habit of doing) as a result Saturday mornings in our house are usually quite a lazy affair. We could lie in until late if we chose, after all the first 'mums taxi run' of the day isn't until 11.45am, so it was a bit of a shock to the system when I had to be in Hextable by 9am on Saturday 13th March.

The reason for the early start was a child protection seminar run by the Churches Child Protection Advisory Service, and I'm very glad I made the effort.

Sue has encouraged all of us that have some involvement in the activities we run for

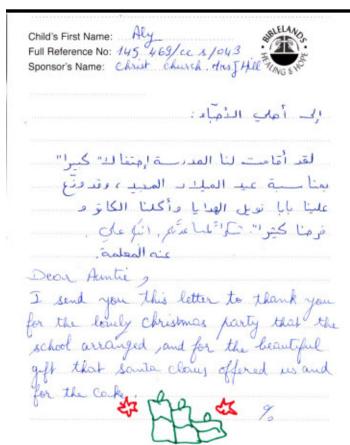
children, to attend this event. I expected to see a handful of people, but St Peters Church was packed, I would guess around 200 plus people, including several others from our own congregation.

The purpose of the event was to support us in having a better understanding of some of the issues around children's personal safety and how we can ensure that we have a church environment, where all children feel safe and supported.

Through case studies and discussion we were able to share top tips and best practices, all of which I felt were relevant and worth of that early Saturday start.

I would recommend this event to any one who works with children in any capacity. It certainly opened my eyes.

Angela





The latest letter from Aly Rabih Yehya, who lives in the suburbs of Beirut. He suffers from cerebral palsy.

Julie Hill

Lots of love.

On helafof your child sty Teacher.

Church Gardens – Update

Especially for the gardeners among you!

After almost two years the grounds are beginning to blossom (literally!) I hope you are enjoying the results of a lot of digging, planting, weeding and watering.

The Pleasance is settling in although it will be a few years before it matures. We have only lost one plant to the dreadful winter. I hope there will be some colour with flowers or foliage all year.



The rose garden is also flourishing as are the greenfly! The red tulips cheer up the bed whilst we wait for the roses to bloom. The new daffodils and small bulbs under the trees have been very colourful too.

The daisy fish suffered in the winter cold and snow and have struggled to produce flowers but the sea of Foget-me-nots seems to have taken over at the moment and add vivid colour to the front of the church.

The gardens by the car park are well established mixed border. The bindweed and nettles are also well established! It will be an on-going battle to clear them but the area looks green and healthy.

The long garden at the side of the church hall has almost finished being planted. Sue suggested a sensory garden in the area and I have tried to put the idea into place with plants chosen for scent, texture and colour. No plants to taste though – I didn't want to poison anyone! The wind which whistles around the corner will probably give the fifth sense of sound!!

The circular bed has Pasque flowers, Lamb's ears, Santolina, Sea Holly and Dragon's Blood grass for texture. The flowers chosen for scent are Daffodils (Tête-À-Tête) wallflowers and hyacinths. All will give colour as well. The tree in the centre is Prunus Amanogawa – a flowering cherry which will give colour with blossom in Spring as well as purple leaves in Autumn. It will not grow very tall or wide and was chosen to add height to an otherwise flat flowerbed.

The long side garden is planted mainly on a colour theme, starting with pinks and reds at the church corner. This progresses through to purples and lilacs, white, greens then yellows and orange. That of course is assuming that all the plants are in the correct place and grow!! The full colour effect will take a while to develop but many of the plants will scent and texture this year.

Finally, I really must thank John Thrush who has paid for the majority of the plants. Other people, friends, family and church members have also contributed plants or donations...

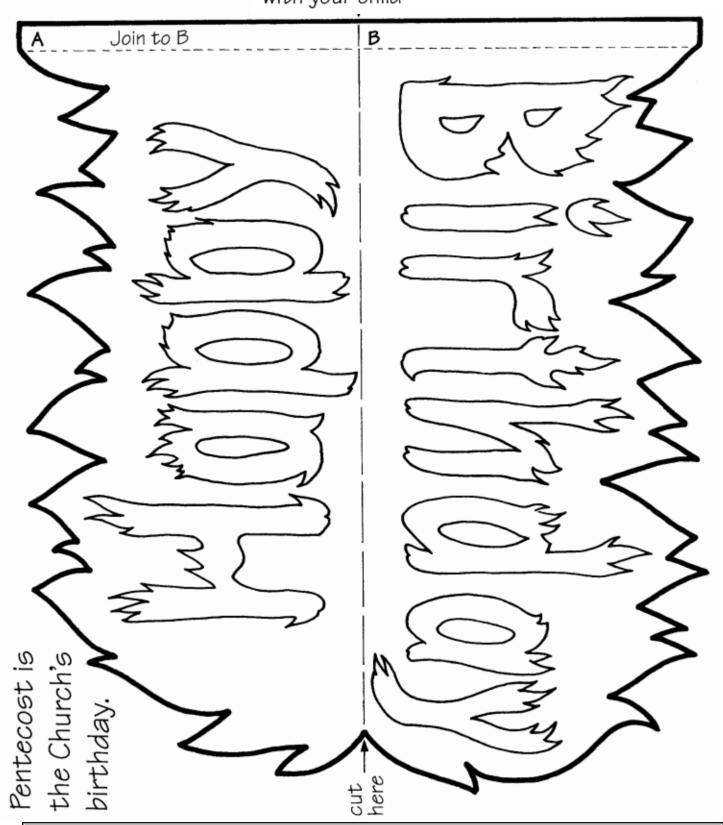
A very big thank you to everyone. I hope you like the result!

Lesley Harries

God's Gang

We are the Church and you are our God. You fill us with love every day. We are the Church and you are our God. We're a body of people who pray.

For parents to pray with your child







14th April 2010

As usual the weeks have flown by and it's time for our First Steps service once again. It's a grey old day with a very chilly wind and our naughty little sheep and his friends are all snuggled up together, trying to keep warm. Everywhere is beautiful with blossom and spring flowers but the backdrop of a clear blue sky is missing for the moment, so we're all feeling a bit chilly and gloomy. Perhaps we'll feel brighter later! Anne and Isabelle meet us on our way to the church and Isabelle has brought Chloe her sheep with her. Our naughty little sheep is really pleased to see her.

When we all get into church our naughty little sheep and his friends catch sight of Alan Cooper's resurrection paintings and they all want to take a closer look. So they each choose a painting to look at and Anne, Isabelle and I leave them to it, as we begin to get things ready. Ray Green has come along to film a bit of our service. It will form a tiny part of our Christ Church video, currently in production, so we're all going to be famous! Our naughty little sheep and his friends are keeping uncharacteristically quiet, hoping that Ray doesn't see them. I think that they're all feeling a bit camera shy!

Even though it's the Easter Holidays a small but select group of Mums and children are able to join us, including Thomas, Ethan and Erin who are on holiday from school. So with jingle bells at the ready we begin our service. When our candles are lit, and with the beauty of the springtime all around us, we sing, "Springtime comes". And we're beginning to feel brighter already! Then we think about Easter and the wonder of Jesus' resurrection and the children help to round up our naughty little sheep and his friends, collecting them from the windowsills where they've been

looking at the resurrection paintings. The children kindly take charge of them for the rest of our service. Well, someone needs to!

Next we sing "Mother Hen" and remember our Easter Eggs, (yum yum!) closely followed by "Creepy crawly caterpillar". Billy knows all about how a caterpillar turns into a butterfly because his Mum has read him the story of "The very hungry caterpillar" and we talk about what a miracle it is, when a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly and how the love of God in Jesus Christ can transform us; not on the outside, but on the inside. And we've got two new songs to sing, "Easter is a happy time" because it is! And "Jesus' love is very wonderful" because Easter makes us really think about the wonder of Jesus' love for us. And without Easter we wouldn't have a church, would we? That really is something to think about!

With our songs sung, prayers said and candles blown out, our service is over. Now it's time for play and a very welcome cuppa. Our naughty little sheep and his friends sit on the hatchway in the hall and enjoy watching the children play. I'm very pleased to hear that they've all been very well behaved, so they can come again! I think that Isabelle's sheep Chloe has had a good time, too and she's had a chance to catch up with our naughty little sheep. We've all enjoyed catching up with each other too, and the time has flown by as usual. With everything packed away it's time to go home. Though we won't see Thomas, Ethan and Erin next time, I do hope that the others will be able to join us again for our next service on 12th May. Our naughty little sheep will be looking out for them too. Be there or be square, we say! Rosemary Austin God Bless.



FREE course

"Financial Capability" (how to manage your money)

run by Mike Butler (Oasis Trust)

The Powerhouse St Aidan's Way Gravesend DA12 4AG

Wednesdays 5, 12, and 19 May 10.15-11.45am

Also free confidential money advice drop-in Fridays 10-12noon

ALL WELCOME

For more details:contact Rev Richard Martin 01474 351620 or email ramartinstaidans@yahoo.co.uk

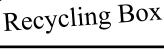


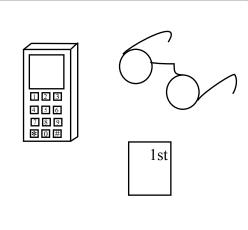
Jenna and I are taking part in the Cancer Research Race for Life on 4th July to raise money for Cancer Research. If any one would like to sponsor either Jenna or I they can do so online or by letting us know when they see us around. We will run, jog or crawl around Blackheath Common and my company have agreed to meet what I raise pound for pound. Thanks, Angela.

http://www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/angelakirby http://www.raceforlifesponsorme.org/jennakirby

Angela and Jenna Kirby







Please remember to bring your unwanted spectacles, mobile phones, printer cartridges – Canon, Hewlett Packard (NOT Epson or refilled cartridges), stamps etc and leave them in the box at the back of the church. We support the EllenorLions Hospice, The Children's Society, Leprosy Mission, RNLI, Help the Aged, Cancer Care and other charities via your contributions which provide invaluable support as well as doing something for the planet.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2009

Last year I said that 2008 was a time of building on our strengths and beginning to plan for the future. 2009 saw those plans take concrete shape and the process has begun of putting plans into action. The process of forming a Mission Action Plan and putting it into action, has meant that your PCC has taken a hard look at every area of the life of this church, which has been a very encouraging and positive process.

It is impossible to list all the things that have always happened and continued to happen – there is just so much: the big services -Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest and Christmas (including a magnificent Carols by Candlelight service at which we said farewell to Gwyneth as our resident organist). The fetes, the Christian Aid fund-raising, Over 80's outings and events, Mothers' Union, Remembrance and RMA service, and the service for the bereaved. Crèche, God's Gang, First Steps and Youth Club. 41 funerals were conducted and followed up, Children were baptised after personal visits, and 19 couples were prepared for marriage and sent off to married life together. At a great service at Holy Family Church, 7 people were confirmed and 4 others renewed their baptismal vows. The day to day stuff of church life continued: Advertising – the news sheet, the website, the magazine. Cleaning and DIY, gardening, posters, displays and floral arrangements, catering and counting money, welcoming and preparing the altar, acolytes and hall management, home communions, administration, vergers, lifts to church, Preaching and PCC and much, much more. Just to try and list what everyone does as part of this church family, is to see how this is a team and a community working at its best. We all owe a tremendous amount to each

other as each member of the church family offers their gifts for the good of everyone. Let's just thank one another now, for all those unseen gifts that keep this show on the road.

Seems a good moment at which to pay tribute, too, to those who gave so much in the past and are no longer with us. So many who made this place what it is now. We remember especially those we said goodbye to in 2009 - Peggy Littlewood, Edna Hall and Alan Cooper.

On top of all this, your PCC have been working throughout 2009 to set a vision for the future – a Mission Action Plan – and to start to make that plan reality. The PCC had already made the decision in 2008 that building up our contacts with and mission to children and families should be our main focus for the short- and medium-term. In January a number of members of the congregation went to Bognor to the Diocesan Conference and came back full of fresh ideas and vision from the inspirational speakers, especially in the area of work with families, children and youth. The 5 PCC committees started planning and discussing together and at the PCC Away Day in June it was all drawn together into a detailed Mission

This is the MAP... here. I thought it might be helpful to you to look at it in detail and to give a brief summary of how things are going:

Action Plan, presented to the congregation in

By the end of December 2010 we will:-**Buildings and Finance**

· Ensure the Annual Accounts show a surplus for the year; and begin to build up adequate reserves for the future.

September.

- Extend the Garden of Remembrance to accommodate demand for the next 10 years. Thanks to generous donations, this has been done bar a couple of small pathways, some hedging and a bench.
- · Refurbish the hall kitchen to a high standard for all hall users. Again, thanks to generous and unexpected donations and a legacy from Edna Hall... we have chosen the units and planned the kitchen and the work should be done during the May half-term.

Children and Youth

- · Hold a pizza party for our young people in order to listen to their views and begin to integrate them into the life of the church family. Through the Youth Club, young people were asked how they would like to be involved. Some of our young people are now taking part in the all-age and other services, they made Marge Simpson for Mothering Sunday, and a rota of those willing to read in the services. But there is still more to be done to help and encourage our young people... work in progress.
- · With the Bishop's permission, prepare and admit children of appropriate age to Holy Communion. We have made a formal application to the Bishop and once perm ission is obtained there will be an open meeting with the Diocesan Children's Advisor, probably in July. We hope to begin preparing children in September and probably admit them to Holy Communion on Advent Sunday.

Pastoral and Social Concern

· Develop a Welcome Pack to be given to newcomers to the church. The pack will be in a cardboard 'sleeve' and will look like this. It will contain details of the church and church activities and it will be given to every church member to begin with... then to newcomers, baptism and wedding enquirers and so on. Teresa Carlow has agreed to type

- the contents and work will begin in the next couple of weeks.
- · Conduct a review of Social Care at Christ Church and implement review recommendations. That review by the Pastoral and Social Concern committee is going on at the moment.
- · Plan and hold an Open and/or Gift Day. There is simply too much happening at once at the moment, for everyone to keep up with – so we decided to put that off for a year.

Worship and Discipleship

· Adapt our existing '2nd Sunday' service to meet the needs of young families, and research and launch an all-age, all-ability non-Eucharistic service to be held at least once a month. Parents and children were invited to a forum in July 2009, We asked what they would like to see in an all-age service, and have tried to accomodate those suggestions into our new-look

all-age 2nd Sunday service which was launched in January 2010. It is still very much 'work in progress', but it is very encouraging to see so many children and families enjoying themselves. The families also mentioned a non-eucharistic, very informal, child-focused service, possibly on a Sunday afternoon. This is still an intention, but we need to 'bed

down' the 2nd Sunday service first.

· Develop and launch a Christian Basics Course for those new to faith. Well you can't do everything at once, can you? This is at the early stages of planning at the moment.... watch this space.

Mission and Social Events

- · Improve the siting and condition of the church notice-boards, internal and external. Plans are made and designs approved- they look like this. But we need to submit these to the diocese and to the Local Authority planning dept. so that is the next stage.
- · Develop new shared social events of various kinds for the whole church family.

This, too, is work in progress. But it has been great to see some of the newer church members having plans and ideas... a table-top sale in July... the family fun-day for pre-school funds... a family BBQ in August... and a concert in church in November to name only a few.

As you can see, the PCC has worked hard to start to put all these plans into action. It takes a great deal of work and effort on the part of many people. I want to say a big thank you to you all.

Because of all this, there have inevitably been a number of changes during the last year or so. It is a credit to the love and compassion of the church family here, that those changes have been received so well and with such generosity of spirit. Do let PCC members know what you think – we really do want to know. And bear with us as we continue to find our way forward as Christ's body in this place.

And the wider church of which we are a part has not been without its changes either... 2009 saw the departure of our bishop, our archdeacon and our Rural Dean, as well as a number of local clergy. As new people step in to fill those roles, we will surely see changes in the ethos and priorities of the diocese, and those changes will affect us all. Already, pressures on the church at large, and not least financial pressures; as well as the new initiatives in mission that are currently spreading throughout the national church; are affecting our Deanery, and every other Deanery. All deaneries are expected to produce a Deanery Mission Plan and to discuss how resources can be shared throughout the churches of the Deanery. Our Deanery, which extends from Shorne to Swanscombe. and from Istead Rise to the river, is busy discussing this at present. The results of those discussions will affect us as a church

and our relationships with our brothers and sisters in this area. In particular, the continuing vacancy at Holy Family, and the retirement of Peter Rich from St Aidan's at the end of the year, can't help but have an effect on us here, as we work together with others to continue the mission to those areas. We don't know where all these plans will take us. A degree of change is in the air... and that can be exciting and exhilarating...but also disturbing and frightening for some. In order to weather the changes that lie ahead, and to make changes that will be effective and productive, we need above all else to be rooted.

Our feet must be firmly planted on the bedrock of the gospel of Christ. Our hearts must still burn within us as we listen to the gospel story. We must be dead certain – each one of us – that we follow neither personalities, nor the whims of fashion, nor the traditions of the past, but that we are listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I think our biggest challenge this coming year is in the words of the letter to the Hebrews:

Therefore let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfector of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

In all the business and planning... let's hold each other to the basis of our faith. And do all we can to build up that faith in ourselves, in each other, and in the community we serve.

Sue Brewer

Choir

Music & Drama

Music Group

Easter has now gone, Ascension Day isn't far away with Pentecost not far behind.

How the Church's year seems to fly by after Christmas. Other important day in our calendar is the annual RMA service. This occasion has always been particularly special for the Choir has we have members of the Choir who served in the Second World War. We also have those past Choir members who were servicemen too who are sadly no longer wit us, to remember with affection. The Wedding Season is now upon us so we shall all be kept busy on Saturdays throughout the coming months. We have now settled down to having different Organists on some Sundays. We would welcome new members in our Choir particularly in the Junior section. Why not have an informal chat with Jackie after the service one Sunday, she would be more than happy to explain how it all works.

Pam Kilby

GARDENING TIPS FOR MAY

The danger of frost is diminishing, however until the last week of this month, if you have tender plants including those Annuals you couldn't resist buying, be aware. Be ready to protect them from a late and occasionally fatal cold snap, the Nurseryman's bonus! He will have plenty of plants growing under cover ready to sell in the first two weeks of June to unfortunate gardeners. Try to keep the weeds under control they never appear to suffer from cold weather. Cut grass weekly, the spring flush has started and grass will be growing at a great rate until the soil dries out. Garden pests, Aphids, Green and Black Fly and Lily Beetle will now be building up to plague proportions, control them as early as possible. Old well-established clumps of Daffodil bulbs will respond well to an application of liquid feed. If really crowded they can be lifted and divided into smaller clumps. If this is to be tried, water the area well a day or two before carrying out this operation.

ADAM

After a couple of busy months learning new Easter songs, we are turning our attention to learning some new songs to sing on the 2nd Sunday. We are a small group and we would



really like to have a few more singers. If you can spare a couple of Monday evenings a month why not talk to Helen about joining us? We are a friendly informal bunch and would be pleased to have a few more members.

World Cup Fever Fete

Bring in the following items:

Sunday

9 May books and toys
16 May baby/toddler items
23 May white elephants Veronica
30 May nearly new /gifts
6 June games/ puzzles

13 June bottles of any description 19th June - on the day - cakes, cupcakes and plants

Contributions to be placed in the boxes at the back of the church.

CCADS



CCADS Production 29th, 30th April 1st May

Two of a Kind

CCADS would like to thank everyone who came and supported them in their production of Two of a Kind by Hugh Janes. We look forward to seeing you again in November for our next production.

Gill Campbell



Highlights this month!

Ascension Day Pentecost Christian Aid Week

Sunday Monday	30 8 am Service 10 am Holy Communion Youth Club	8 am Service 10am Holy Communion Youth Club 3 Bank Holiday 9am Holy Communion	9 8.30am Christian Aid breakfast 8 am Service 10 am All-Age Service Youth Club	16 8 am Service 10 am Service 11.30am RMA Service Youth Club 17 Cubs Brownies	23 PENTECOST 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club Cubs Brownies
Tuesday		4	11	18	25
Wednesday		Open Church after 10am service MU Meeting 8pm Guides	12 Open Church after 10am service First Steps Guides	Open Church after 10am service Guides	26 Open Church after 10am service Guides
Thursday		6 Polling Day Beavers Brownies Choir Practice	Ascension Day Beavers Brownies Choir Practice	Beavers Brownies Choir Practice	Beavers Brownies Choir Practice
Friday		7 Parent & Toddler Office Hours Scouts	Parent & Toddler Office Hours Scouts	Parent & Toddler Office Hours Scouts	Parent & Toddler Office Hours Scouts
Saturday Sa	1	8 Working Party	15 FA Cup Final	22	29

What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)
10.00 am Communion with crèche & God's Gang
On the 2nd Sunday "New Look" All-Age service

Evening Service - see inside magazine for details.

Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)
Monday and Saturday 8am.
Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.
Wednesday 10.00am

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

For further information contact the Church Wardens

Open Church

Wednesday
After the 10 am
service

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) MODER WINDOW

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