



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

August 2012

30p

Or donation

NOT TO BE MISSED **MOTHERS UNION GARDEN PARTY** **NOT TO BE MISSED**
FAMILY BAR-B-QUE
TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

Deadline for magazine:

Middle of the month prior to publication,
ie: 15 August for Sept.

E-mail to

ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

hand to a Churchwarden, or Mike Cubitt

**Christ Church Hall
is available for hire.**

Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett

01474 568585

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

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Who's Who at Christ Church		www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk
Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Deacon	Jo Drew	364367
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	323515
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden	Ian Brown	356339
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

Rosemary Austin

Reader



Rosemary has been a Reader in Christ Church since 1999, having trained with Sheila. She became a member of the congregation in 1968 when she moved with her family from Meopham. Her father, Claude Fox, was also a Reader in Christ Church so she is continuing a fine family tradition. Rosemary also sings in the church choir as her father did before her; and she is a member of the Music Group. She's been married to Bob for nearly 40 years and they have three grown up children and 4 grandchildren. She has now retired after

working in Christ Church Pre-school for over 20 years but she hasn't lost touch with the children because she brings them into church once a fortnight before the 10am service on a Wednesday to sing songs and say, "Thank you" prayers. She also leads our monthly First Steps service, for Pre-school children and their carers. And what fun they all have! Rosemary continues to be a familiar face at our All Age services, our Hot Cross Bun service on Good Friday and our Crib service on Christmas Eve. There is a naughty little sheep that often keeps her company though she has to keep a close eye on him to make sure that he isn't being too naughty!

First Steps

FIRST STEPS

First Steps

Is a service especially designed for families with pre-school children, although all children in the family are welcome to come.

We meet in the church at 1.45 pm on the second Wednesday in each month for a short service and then to enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

We are finished in plenty of time for parents to meet their other children from school.

Why not come along with your children, you will be very welcome.

Next date is Wednesday 8 August



MOTHERS' UNION GARDEN PARTY

THURSDAY 2nd AUGUST

at 2.30 pm

34 WHITEHILL ROAD

Entrance £1.00

Raffle - Tea and Cakes

**Bring and Buy
All welcome**

Please Come



A Weekend to celebrate **new Ministry**

Jo Drew will be ordained priest at St Botolph's Church in Northfleet, at 4pm on Saturday 8th September 2012. Bishop James will be conducting the service and two other local curates – Chris Routledge and Lorraine Lawrence – will be ordained at the same service. There will be refreshments afterwards in the church hall at St Botolph's.

But I thought Jo was already ordained?

The New Testament speaks of 3 different kinds of Christian ministry – the roles of deacon, priest and bishop. 'Deacon' means 'servant' and the role of Deacon is to serve the church, to enable the ministry of God's people, and to form a link between the church and God's world. The Priestly role has a special focus on the sacraments - bringing people into God's presence through forgiveness and reconciliation, blessing and Holy Communion. Last year Jo was ordained Deacon. On 8th September she will also be ordained Priest.

What else is happening that weekend?

Sunday 9th September will be a day of celebration for us at Christ Church, as Jo celebrates Holy Communion for the first time. Her friends and supporters will be present, and we will all celebrate afterwards with refreshments in the church hall. Those who have been ordained Priest do not ever stop being a Deacon as well, and you will see Priests Sue and Jacqueline robed as Deacons that day, as they support Jo in her Priestly ministry.

Please put both dates in your diary – there will be a sign-up list at the back of the church nearer the time, to arrange lifts to St Botolph's; and please hold Jo in your prayers as she prepares for this important next step in her ministry.

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota



Week 8	05 August	Colin Parsonson, Linda Parsonson, Anne Thrush
Week 9	12 August	Jerry Higgins, Sally Higgins, Ann Lennard
Week 10	19 August	Pauline Marks, Margot Edwards, Angela Kirby
Week 11	26 August	Rita Smith, Jean Stoddart, Sheila Knight, Ann Lennard
Week 12	02 Sept.	Margaret Davies, Terri Allan

Maureen Fittill

Through the kitchen door

With so much of our beautiful Kentish soft fruit about we can take the easy way out for a super scrummy desert.

Strawberry Flan

Ingredients

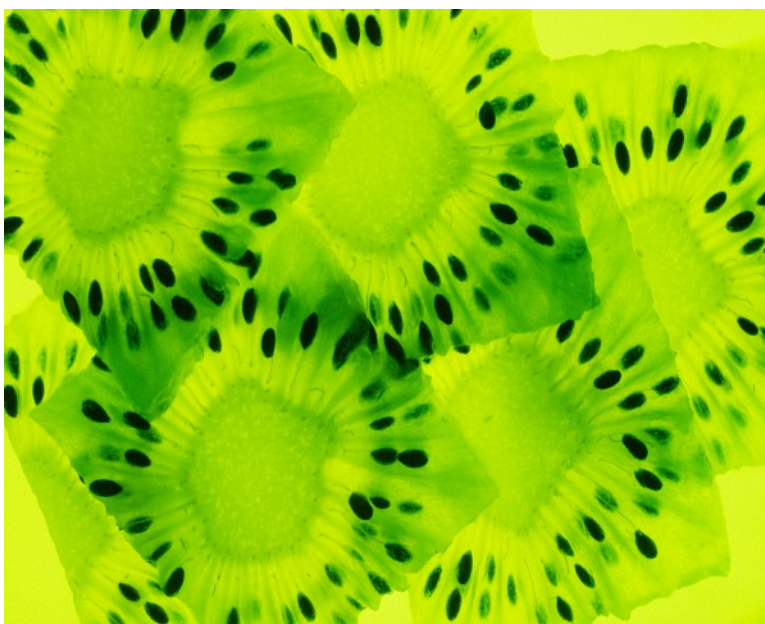
- 1 tub 400grms strawberries
- 1 Sweet pastry flan case
- 1 pack of Crème Patissiere
- 1 packet quick Jel

Method

1. I said this was easy! Purchase flan case, Strawberries, Crème Patissiere, and Quick Jel from “St Michaels”
2. Wash the fruit and put on a cloth to dry.
3. Spread the crème patissiere over the base of the flan, then top with the fruit cut in half down the length
4. Follow the instructions on the packet of Quick Jel, and when ready and setting, spoon this carefully over the fruit flan and allow to set.

This can be made with any soft fruit of your choosing

If you have a favourite recipe you would like to share with members of the congregation then send it to the editor or put on clip in vestry



Welcome to the Feast! – understanding the Service of Holy Communion

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do in our Sunday morning worship? Perhaps you are new to Anglican worship and find it all a bit bewildering? Or maybe you would appreciate time and opportunity to think a bit more deeply about the different parts of the Holy Communion Service?

During the Summer months we shall be holding a series of themed sermons exploring different parts of service.

1st July	'Lamenting Life and Dealing with Damage' – Confession and peace
15th July	'Memory and Meals' – The Service of Holy Communion
29th July	'Sending forth' – Blessing, dismissal and beyond
12th August	'Opening the Word' – The Bible, a shared faith read and understood
19th August	'A Praying People' – Intercession for the world
26th August	'The Community gives Thanks' – Eucharist as thanksgiving

There will be short notes available after each sermon, for anyone who would like them.

Changed dates for "All age Services"

Because of various special events going on this summer and autumn, the dates of some of the "All age Services" have changed. Below are the dates of all the "All age Services" between August and December- please put these in your diary!

August 5, followed by church family BBQ - September 16 - October 14, Harvest Festival - November 4 - December 9.

After that back to 2nd Sunday of month as usual

Volunteers needed.....

'We always need volunteers... the church runs because of the generous service of volunteers.

If you have time and enthusiasm to spare but you are not sure where your talents can be used,

Sue would be glad to meet you for a cup of coffee and to talk through possibilities.



THE MUSTARD SEED

The Mustard Seed aims to provide an informal and friendly tea at three on the third Thursday of each month in Christ Church Hall. It is a new venture which offers the opportunity to meet new friends and chat about old times. The Mustard Seed, as the parable says (Mark 4: 3-32), is very small – like dust – but has the potential to develop into one of the largest plants.

The official Mustard Seed launch took place on May 17th. Members of our Pastoral Care Team set out tables with tablecloths and vases of flowers. A kind parishioner generously provided us with a beautiful 'Mustard Seed' cake decorated and designed with our new logo and the launch date. But as the people came in it soon became clear that people did not want to be separated on different tables and they were drawn together into one which enabled approximately twenty people to mix and make new friends.

The Mustard Seed was officially opened by the Vicar of Christ Church; the cake cut; and wine distributed to toast the new venture established by the Pastoral Assistants Team. The Mustard Seed's mission statement is to assist in the development of new friendships and enhanced fellowship for all whilst gently offering care and support throughout the good and more difficult times of life - when a cup of tea and chat about life and old times can be just what is needed.

Reflections on war time 'evacuation' experiences, a weekly raffle with a donated prize, and donations of homemade goodies are some things that have already happened at the two Mustard Seed teas!

All are warmly welcomed to join the newly planted The Mustard Seed and to help it flourish. You are so welcome. For further details please contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team. Pastoral Assistants – Pam Kilby, Colin Parsonson and Jasmine Humphries or Curate - Rev Jo Drew.



First Steps

FIRST STEPS

First Steps

11TH JULY 2012

Our naughty little sheep is up bright and early this morning, looking out of the window to see if it's still raining. We've had so much rain over the last few weeks and he's worried that no one will want to come to our First Steps service today if it's wet. We shall see. The sun is shining at the moment, so fingers crossed!

It's still sunny when he and his friends and I walk up to church later. Everywhere looks so lovely in the sunshine, doesn't it? But the plants and trees love the rain and everywhere looks so lush and green. Into church and our naughty little sheep has decided that he's going to hide, just like his friends, so off they all go. They're getting good at it; it's all that practice!

With everything set up and with the rain still holding off, Jenny is the first to arrive, with grandson Gabriel. He has brought me a sprig of lavender from his garden. Isn't that thoughtful? And it smells lovely. Then one by one others come in to join us including two baby boys, Baxter and Tommy. How sweet they are. I hope our jingling bells don't disturb them too much. With our candles lit our service begins and today we are thinking about Summer Fun. Ho Ho Ho! Dodging the showers, more like! We sing about caterpillars and butterflies and how God made the sun and the stars, the wind and the rain and the birds that fly in the air. We remember that God made us too and we are special and precious to Him. And we thank Him for His love for us.

Then we hear thunder rattling around outside so we just have to sing, "I hear thunder" twice and we thank God for the wonder of creation. I'm worried that those hiding animals might be scared so the children rush round to find them all and give them a cuddle, just to reassure them. More songs are sung and then our jingle bells are very quiet as we say our prayers. With our service over, out we go into the hall for a nice cuppa and a chat. Once again our naughty little sheep and his friends watch the children play. The sun is out again and we've had a lovely time together.

On the 8th August we will be having a Big Picnic for Teddy Bears and we hope that everyone will join us again. Will we see the sun? We can only hope!

God Bless

Rosemary Austin.

Can you give blood this summer and help boost blood stocks?

NHS Kent and Medway is supporting NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT)'s campaign to increase blood supplies before 2012's major summer events. This summer, NHSBT is looking to increase blood supplies by 30 per cent above normal levels because voluntary blood donations can fall in the run up to and during large scale national events.

Dr Robert Stewart, Co-Medical Director, NHS Kent and Medway said: "We know that even regular donors can miss appointments when distracted by national events and celebrations. With an increase in the number of visitors to the UK, it's important that people still give blood, and don't forget their appointments in the excitement of the European Football Championships, Olympic and Paralympic Games and music festivals.

"Blood donation is important and each unit of donated blood, which is just under a pint, saves or improves the lives of up to three patients. If you are eligible to give blood, please make an appointment by calling 0300 123 23 23."

NHSBT manages the national voluntary donation system for blood, tissues, organs and stem cells and supplies around two million units of blood each year to hospitals in England and north Wales. Blood is used to help treat health conditions including cancer and long term illnesses, trauma incidents and maternity care.

Jon Latham, spokesperson for NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), said: "We know our regular donors feel a strong sense of team spirit and positivity about their contribution to the health of the nation, so this campaign will help capture the national spirit of 2012 and ensure we are well prepared for the summer's festivities."

People can help by checking if they are eligible to donate blood by visiting <http://www.blood.co.uk/can-i-give-blood//> and then making an appointment to donate, visit <http://www.blood.co.uk/giving-blood/where-can-i-go/> or call 0300 123 23 23 for more information.

Facts

NHSBT collects approximately two million units of blood each year from 1.4 million blood donors.

The NHS needs 7,000 voluntary donations of blood daily across England and North Wales.

Around 4 per cent of the eligible population are active blood donors.

There are four main blood groups - O, A, B and AB. Group O is the most common and therefore the most in demand.

Over 95 per cent of the blood collected is processed into its main components - red cells, platelets and plasma. A regular supply of blood is vital as red cells last only 35 days and platelets only seven days.



Christ Church

Brownies



We are fortunate to have two Brownie packs and a Guide company attached to Christ Church. The 3rd Milton (St Faith's) Brownie pack meets on Monday evenings in school term time from 5.30 until 7.00 p.m. The 11th Milton (Christ Church) Pack meets on Thursday evenings in school term time from 5.30 until 7.00 p.m. Both packs meet in Christ Church hall.

As part of Girl-guiding UK the volunteer leaders provide a varied programme of activities including craft, cooking, singing, working for various badges and outdoor activities. The Brownie programme is for girls aged 7 to 10. When they reach 10 years of age girls are encouraged to go onto the Guide Company where the activities are more adventurous.

Both packs usually go away for an annual holiday of two or three nights. Recent activities include walking the London bridges, visiting the Gurdwara, joining hundreds of Brownies for an afternoon of international games and activities and meeting with the Guides for a sports evening at Hope Hill.

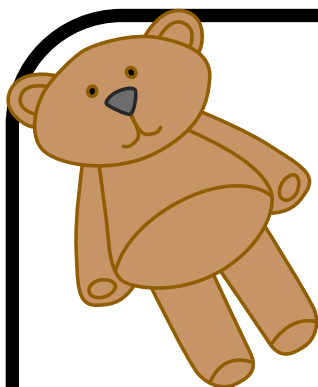
The Brownie packs are very popular and both units have very long waiting lists. If you think your daughter may be interested in joining you need to put her name on the waiting list as early as possible to avoid disappointment when they reach seven years of age. E-mail vicar Sue with your name and your daughter's name, date of birth, address and landline telephone number and her name will be put on the waiting list for both packs although if you know you have a preference please indicate whether that is for Monday or Thursday night.



We will contact you when we have an available place after your daughter reaches seven. It is never too early to put the name on the list but we recommend by her fifth birthday at the very latest.

Thank you
Brown Owl (Maria) and Hazel (Lynne)

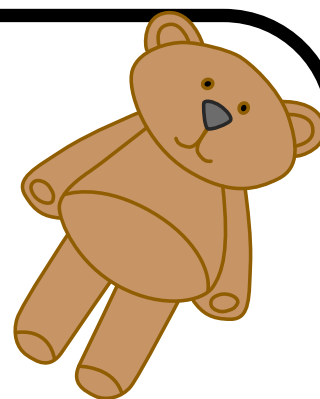




CHRIST CHURCH

Milton-next-Gravesend

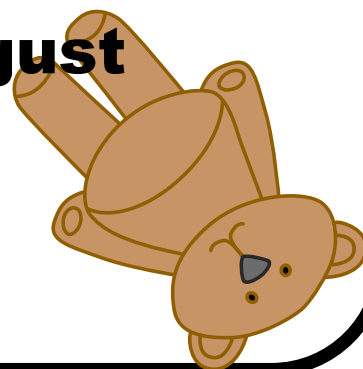
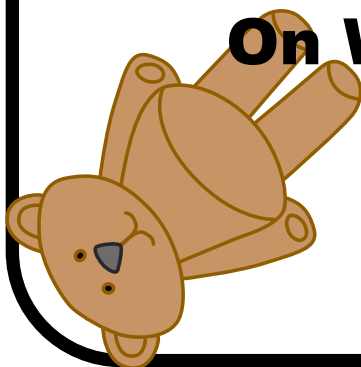
Come and join us for



THE TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

On Wednesday, 8th August

At 2.00 p.m.



Brand New Youth Choir in Gravesend

If you are aged between 7 and 17 and enjoy singing then come along!

- Join a friendly group of singers
- Learn great music of different styles and
- Perform at concerts and services

For further information visit

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

- **Or call 01474 534517**

Join the semiquavers



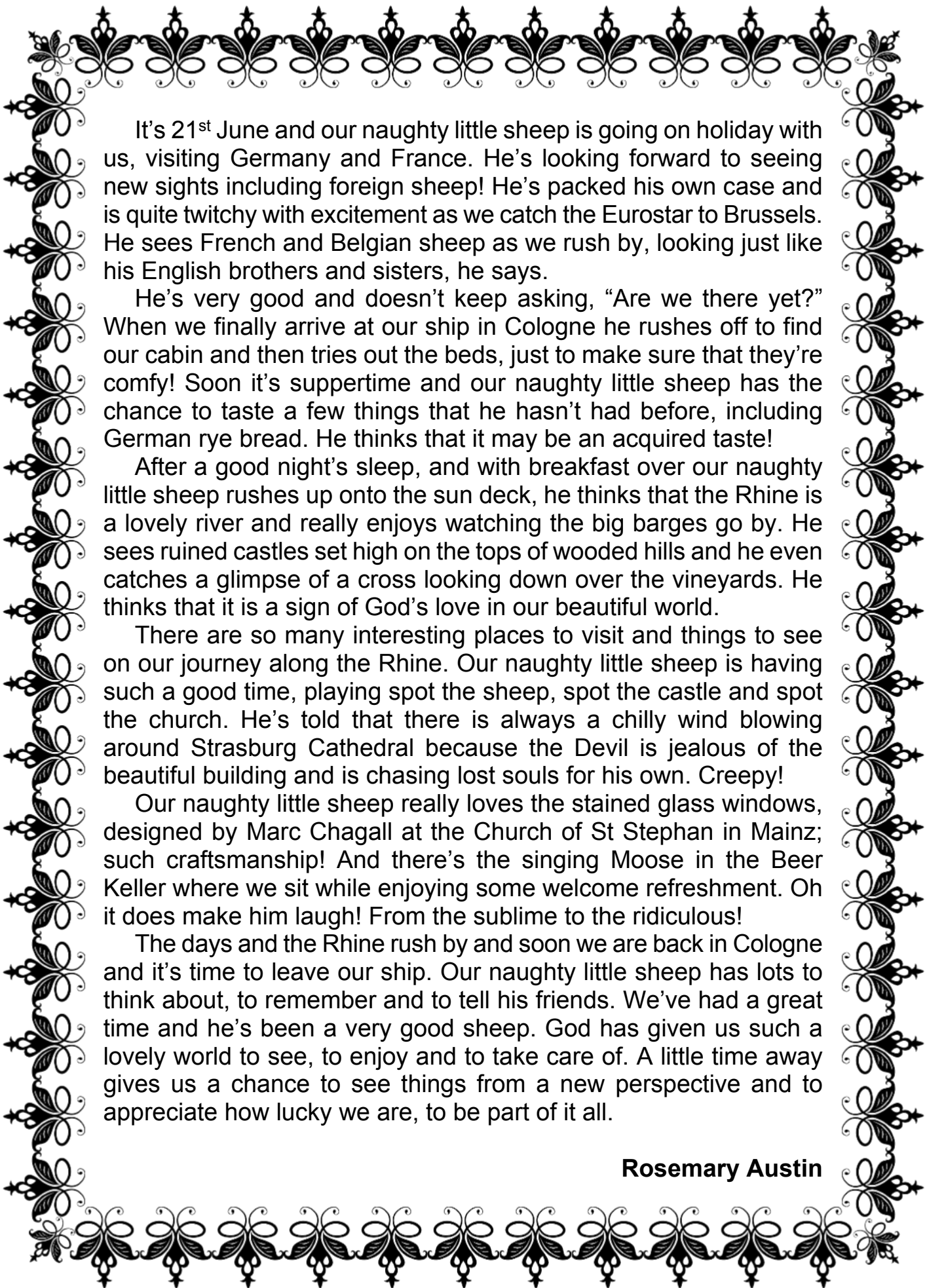
New youth choir in Gravesend

We meet weekly for Rehearsals

at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.30 pm to 7.30 pm



It's 21st June and our naughty little sheep is going on holiday with us, visiting Germany and France. He's looking forward to seeing new sights including foreign sheep! He's packed his own case and is quite twitchy with excitement as we catch the Eurostar to Brussels. He sees French and Belgian sheep as we rush by, looking just like his English brothers and sisters, he says.

He's very good and doesn't keep asking, "Are we there yet?" When we finally arrive at our ship in Cologne he rushes off to find our cabin and then tries out the beds, just to make sure that they're comfy! Soon it's suppertime and our naughty little sheep has the chance to taste a few things that he hasn't had before, including German rye bread. He thinks that it may be an acquired taste!

After a good night's sleep, and with breakfast over our naughty little sheep rushes up onto the sun deck, he thinks that the Rhine is a lovely river and really enjoys watching the big barges go by. He sees ruined castles set high on the tops of wooded hills and he even catches a glimpse of a cross looking down over the vineyards. He thinks that it is a sign of God's love in our beautiful world.

There are so many interesting places to visit and things to see on our journey along the Rhine. Our naughty little sheep is having such a good time, playing spot the sheep, spot the castle and spot the church. He's told that there is always a chilly wind blowing around Strasburg Cathedral because the Devil is jealous of the beautiful building and is chasing lost souls for his own. Creepy!

Our naughty little sheep really loves the stained glass windows, designed by Marc Chagall at the Church of St Stephan in Mainz; such craftsmanship! And there's the singing Moose in the Beer Keller where we sit while enjoying some welcome refreshment. Oh it does make him laugh! From the sublime to the ridiculous!

The days and the Rhine rush by and soon we are back in Cologne and it's time to leave our ship. Our naughty little sheep has lots to think about, to remember and to tell his friends. We've had a great time and he's been a very good sheep. God has given us such a lovely world to see, to enjoy and to take care of. A little time away gives us a chance to see things from a new perspective and to appreciate how lucky we are, to be part of it all.

Rosemary Austin



Pastoral **Assistants**

Christ Church is extremely lucky to have three commissioned Pastoral Assistants. And what, and who are they, you may wonder? **Pam Kilby, Jasmine Humphries** and **Colin Parsonson** have all undertaken training that led to their authorisation as Pastoral Assistants approved to provide all with care, support and encouragement.

Pam was previously authorised as a Pastoral Assistant in the Diocese of Southwark and her training and work experience as a nurse has resulted in a particular expertise in both care and emotional support. **Jasmine's** love for working with children and families (further enhanced by her employment at Ifield School) also includes a particular desire to support the bereaved. And **Colin**, as a member of the Pastoral and Social Committee, feels particularly called to serve the older person.

The Pastoral Assistants are easily identified by their badge, which displays the Rochester Diocese shield and Bishops mitre. I was privileged to support, and attend, both Colin's and Jasmine's recent celebration service's where they were authorised and presented with their Certificate. Both were moving occasions that outlined and affirmed the Ministry of a Pastoral Assistant as below –

Pastoral Assistants are called to respond to the great commandment to love God and our neighbour. Through prayer, love and the desire to stand alongside, they communicate to others the message of Christ through caring action.

In the light of the Bible and Church tradition they reflect on the dilemmas of modern life and walk with those on their Christian pilgrimage. Pastoral Assistants are those with pastoral gifts who will exercise a leadership role, acting as an example, and encouraging others to join them in serving Christ in the community and the Church.

Please do not hesitate to speak to members of the Pastoral Care Team. Their contact details follow –

Pam Kilby 01474 332693; Colin Parsonson 01474 359713; and Jasmine Humphries 01474 323515

*Jo
Curate, Christ Church*



THE MUSTARD SEED

THE Mustard Seed aims to provide an informal and friendly tea at 3.00 pm on the third Thursday of every month in Christ Church hall.

It is a new venture that offers the opportunity to meet new friends and reminisce about old times.

The Mustard Seed, as the parable says (Mark4; 3-32) is very small - like dust - but has the potential to develop into one of the largest plants.

Please join us as we plant the Mustard Seed and assist to make it flourish. Who knows what may happen!

The launch of the first Mustard Seed took place in May, and the next gathering will be on Thursday 17 August. You are so welcome.

For further details please contact any member of the pastoral care team. Pastoral assistants Pam Kilby, Colin Parsonson, Jasmine Humphries or Curate Jo Drew

GRAVESHAM FOODBANK

**A Churches Together and
RCCG Life Start Connections Initiative**

Please, if you can, help local people in crises by buying items from the list below and leaving them on the table at the back of the church

UHT or powdered Milk, 500g sugar, catons of fruit juice, pasta sauces, tinned sponge pudding, tinned tomatoes, cereals, tinned rice pudding, instant mash potato, tinned meat, tinned fish, jam, biscuits, snack bars, rice, tea, coffee (small Jars), chocolate, toiletries, toilet rolls (two or four packs)

Your support is much appreciated

Design a

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



Each Christmas every house in the Parish receives a Christmas card from Christ Church.

This year we are giving you the opportunity to design the card.

Your design must be drawn on A4 paper (landscape) and have a Christmas theme.

Please write your name and 'phone number on the back of your design and bring it to church no later than Sunday 16th September.

The judges' decision is final



**Have you had a look on the
Traidcraft table recently?**

**We have some new items for sale. You might see
something that takes your fancy.
If there is something you would like to try but is
on the table have a word with John Hill.**



BIBLE NOTES

Some people find it useful to have a set portion of the Bible to read each day. The Bible Reading Fellowship have a booklet called "New Daylight" which sets out a short Bible reading and explanatory notes. These booklets are priced at £3.90 (they do go up each year) for a four month period.

If you would like to try one of these booklets please let Julie Hill know.



invite you to their fortnightly services for

**older people,
people with disabilities,
those with Alzheimer's & dementia,
and their carers.**

Forgetmenot Singing



will be at Christ Church Hall,

Old Road East, Gravesend

2nd & 4th Thursdays in the month

2 - 3.30pm



9 August and 23 August

Sessions will last 1½ hours

and will begin with free refreshments and a social time then

Forgetmenot Singing

£2.50 per person attending

Phone 07582451470

Forgetmenot Support Services C.I.C. registered number 7703968
e-mail info@forgetmenot-services.co.uk www.forgetmenot-services.co.uk

Highlights this month !



August

Sunday 5 Bar-B-Que

Wednesday 8 TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

Wednesday 15 OVER 80s PARTY

17/18 Hall spring clean

Sunday		5 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 12.00 BBQ	12 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	19 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	26 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
					
Monday		6 08.00 Service 16.45 Service	13 08.00 Service 16.45 Service	20 08.00 Service 16.45 Service	27 08.00 Service 16.45 Service
					
Tuesday		7 07.00 Service 16.45 Service	14 07.00 Service 16.45 Service	21 07.00 Service 16.45 Service	28 07.00 Service 16.45 Service
					
Wednesday	1 10.00 service 16.45 Service	8 10.00 service 13.45 First Steps Teddy Bears Picnic 16.45 Service	15 10.00 service Over 80s Party 16.45 Service	22 10.00 service 16.45 Service	29
					
Thursday	2 07.00 Service 16.45 Service Choir Practice	9 07.00 Service 16.45 Service Choir Practice	16 07.00 Service 16.45 Service Choir Practice	23 07.00 Service 16.45 Service Choir Practice	30
					
Friday	3 16.45 Service 18.30 Office Hours	10 16.45 Service 18.30 Office Hours	17 Spring Clean 16.45 Service 18.30 Office Hours	24 16.45 Service 18.30 Office Hours	31
					
Saturday	4 08.00 Service	11 08.00 Service 9.30 Working Party	18 08.00 Service Spring Clean	25 08.00 Service	
					

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 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

**For further information
Contact
The Church Wardens**





Registered Charity no. 1130741

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)	
Monday	Music Group; Brownies	
Tuesday	Cubs and Semiquavers	
Wednesday	Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)	
	First Steps First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm	
	Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday)	
Thursday	Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice	
2 - 3.30	Forgetmenot Singing 2nd & 4th Thurs afternoon	
Friday	Scouts; Amateur Dramatics ; Parent and Toddler	
Saturday	Working party (2nd Saturday)	



CHURCH FAMILY BBQ

WELCOME TO THE CHURCH



WELCOME TO THE CHURCH

AT 12 NOON



ALL WELCOME
PLEASE COME

