



CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND



SEPTEMBER 2014

British volunteers for "Kitchener's Army" waiting for their pay in the churchyard of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London.

This is photograph Q 53234 from the collections of the Imperial War Museums

Donation or **40p**

Scan the smart code below to go to our web site



IN REVIEW available at <http://www.churchofengland.org>

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday 14 September. For October
Copy: email to
ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk
Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

Christ Church Hall is available for hire
Contact Rachel Pace
01474 249508 or 07960 024917
Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and childrens 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
Curate	Jo Drew	364367
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	392713
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden		
PCC Secretary	Linda Riordan	746988
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	392713
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

1914 - 1918

The war to end all wars!

If only that was true

Last month we published a few items contributed by members of our congregation alongside photos of some of the happenings during the conflicts in Europe and the Balkans.

This theme continues this month and we hope to be able to bring similar stories and photos that illustrate the truth of what was happening a hundred years ago.

Again stories from family members that have been passed down over the years, will, I hope, bring the realisation that if

only the peoples of this world would act as their true faith teaches, then the need for many of the conflicts that continue to tear countries and their people apart, and the many atrocities and criminal acts, supposedly carried out in the name of their religion, by misguided and ill informed perpetrators of these acts then the world would be a better place for all to live.

We see political and religious leaders at many of the ceremonies held in the name of PEACE throughout the world, but we must ask ourselves the question, are some of the people that we see lay crosses and wreaths at the war memorials across the country really doing this through a true hope for peace and remembrance, or is it that they need to be seen at a high profile event?



Start Black History Month

A Spiritual Experience

A musical journey through the history of negro spirituals

Featuring Dr Kimberly Hawkins

Thursday 2 October 2014 at 19.30

At Christ Church

Tickets £5 are available from Natalie Gibbons

Contact 07764756951 or natalieehgibbons@gmail.com

COFFEE ROTA 2014



31st August Pauline Marks, Margot Edwards, Angela Kirby
7 September Rita Smith, Sheila Knight, Jean Stoddart
14 September Jilln Godwin, Annie Southwick, Dorothy Oliver
21 September Vena Croydon, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson
28 September Sandy Barden, Jenny Shoesmith, David Williams



**Come in and enjoy a cup of tea
or coffee after the 10.00 o'clock**



**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 not
on the table have a word with John Hill**



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.

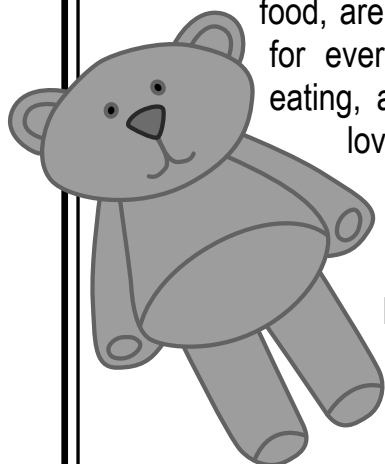
Why not come along with your children, you will be very welcome.

Next date is Wednesday 10 September.

FIRST STEPS

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC 20/8/14

Our naughty little sheep is up bright and early this morning and really excited because today we are having our First Steps Teddy Bears' Picnic and he's been looking forward to it since the last one. It's a bit cloudy as he, I and a crowd of his friends make our way up to church, but we're hoping that the sun will come out. There's lots to do as we get ready but today we've got lots of extra helpers; aren't we lucky? Soon it's time to open the church doors and we hold our breath hoping that lots of our friends will come and join us. The hands on the clock tick round and after a bit we begin to wonder where everyone is but we needn't worry because gradually the church fills up and soon we've got a lovely, lively, noisy gathering. At last, with everyone settled I light our candles and our service begins. Our naughty little sheep and the glittery dragon are standing on our little altar, as usual and our naughty little sheep's friends are sitting close by. They're all so pleased to see everyone. Today we are thinking about our Teddy Bears' Picnic and how it's for everyone and not just Teddy Bears, which is just as well! We sing about sharing, because we're going to be sharing our picnic food, aren't we? And there's plenty for everyone. So we sing about eating, and having fun and about love. We thank God for the



people we love, and who love us and we remember how very lucky and blessed we are to be in our beautiful church, having such a lovely time together. We remember

that Jesus is our friend, who died for us and now is King of Kings and we thank God for sending him to live among us and to show us His great love. Everyone is very good and quiet as we say our prayers and then it is time to blow out our candles and our service is over. Our naughty little sheep whispers to me how much he's enjoyed it and now he's looking forward to our picnic and playing in the garden with the children.

We all go out into the hall where there are some crafts set up. There's a big picture with a Teddy Bear Jesus, that John has made specially and there are cut out boy and girl teddies to stick on and some flower pictures, too. There are teddy pictures to colour, teddy bear pictures to stick and Kelly has made some Teddy Bear biscuits to ice. Yum! Out in the garden there are lots of toys to play with, tents set up, a goal with balls to kick and a sand pit to play in. So much to see and so many things to do. And though the clouds gather from time to time, the sun does come out, too, hooray! And the rain stays away.

Soon it's time for our picnic with healthy food like baby tomatoes, grapes and cucumber and not so healthy food like teddy bear crisps and little sausages; cheesy biscuits and yummy cakes including Barbara's lovely lemon drizzle cake and Anne's chocolate chip brownies. And there are ice cream cornets, too! Yum, yum, yum!!! Our naughty little sheep and his friends have eaten so much they can hardly move! We've all had such a lovely time together, seeing old friends and making new ones. We hope that some will come back and join us for our next First Steps service on the 10th September.

Our naughty little sheep, his friends and I would like to say a GREAT BIG "Thank you" to all those who helped make our Teddy Bears' Picnic such a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

God Bless

Rosemary Austin

Another reflection from Sue's
Sabbatical...

What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare

*'Take off your sandals, for the place
where you are treading is Holy Ground'*

Taking off your shoes is a mark of respect. People often do it when they visit my house, not wanting to bring the dust of the street onto my pristine carpets. Even though I tell them that I have a puppy, and that there is no kind of dirt that he has not brought in – they still do it.

To take off the shoes has an effect on the carpets, for sure... but it has an effect on us as well. With shoes off we are unprotected and vulnerable... whatever is in or on the ground or the earth can

touch us. If it is harmful it can hurt us. With shoes off we feel humbled, a bit foolish and very exposed. We are aware of ourselves – how we look and how we are seen by others. With shoes off we can feel the soil beneath our feet, or the rock, or the gravel, or the grass, or the sand or the sea.

By removing our shoes we become acutely aware of this present moment. Of the particular material world we are in at this moment, and of the people who share it with us, and of ourselves. We are living in the present. We are aware. We are attentive.

Continued on opposite page



WORKING PARTY

'In order to save on expensive cleaning and maintenance, we hold a monthly working party on a Saturday morning starting at 09.30.

Together we clean and tidy the church, do a bit of necessary DIY or gardening, have a coffee and often some home-made goodies – and finish by about 11.30.

We are enormously grateful to the few loyal helpers who turn up month after month – but we desperately need a few more.

Please consider putting the dates into your diary and coming along. All are welcome – if you can do basic DIY please let us know in advance so that the churchwardens can plan jobs in advance.

Working party is almost always on the 2nd Saturday of each month...
NOTE the next one will be on 12 September at 9.30.

See you there, Sue

from Sue's Sabbatical...

Continued from previous page

I have been trying to be attentive to the world around me during this sabbatical. It has been gloriously rich and revealing:

There have been the wonders of the natural world. The power and the extraordinary landscapes of the volcanic mountains of Lanzarote, the beautiful beaches, the glorious british spring flowers and blossom – daffodils and bluebells, fritillaria and ceanothus, magnolia and cherry blossom - , the variety of birds – tits and jays and shelduck and cormorants and swans and gulls – and the sound of birdsong which I am learning to listen for.

And there is also the creativity of human beings. The great cathedrals – Salisbury and Canterbury. The art in galleries and in houses, Manrique and Sidney Cooper. Music – the piece that Graham introduced us to on a CD, the choral singing at Salisbury and more especially at Canterbury in Holy week. Even the quirky or the bizarre: today I sat in chapel next to a tomb and realised with a start that the delicate marble decoration that I had been admiring is a carving of human skeletons and skulls. The lovely marble curve I had rested my eye on, is in fact the curve of a human hip socket!

And there is the delight in being in a particular place at a particular time. The rush of joy when I wake up in the house in Rochester and pull back the curtains to see the river looking different every time. The surprising comfort of the guest houses at Salisbury and Canterbury, and the great delight in being in the cathedral precincts. The joy of dog walking in the sunshine. Beautiful ancient buildings in beautiful ancient cities. Places that have meaning because they carry memories of my past... my parents house, a glimpse of the house in Ospringe Street where we used to live and Ospringe Church from the train, the Kings school Canterbury and memories of ordination training, Dane John and memories of working life.

To be attentive to the world around us... beautiful, awesome, funny, sad or quirky that it is, is to share fully in God's glorious creation and to share fully, too, when it is marred. I am aware of the frustrations of those who don't have their full faculties, who can't see or hear or walk as I can It is a world full of God's glory – let's enjoy it while we can.

Sometimes it is good to take off your shoes and feel the dirt beneath your feet.



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 £4.25 (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.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES FROM JOINT CHURCHES



Christ Church candidates picture with the Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff, Rev Sue Brewer and Rev Jo

Each year at Christ Church a number of people who are new to faith, or who feel ready to make a fresh commitment of faith, decide to be Confirmed or to Renew their Baptismal Vows.

Confirmation in the Church of England marks the point of the Christian journey at which those who have been baptised affirm their faith for themselves.

Pictured below is the Bishop of Rochester, James Langstaff with Natalie and Chris Gibbons



ALZHEIMERS & DEMENTIA S U P P O R T S E R V I C E S

Shorne Country Park

Brewers Road Shorne
DA12 3HX

Sunday 14th September 2014
11:00am Start

Annual 5K Sponsored Walk

We Need Your Support!

If you would like to join us (children welcome)

Please register by calling **Angela**

at Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services on

On 01474 355990 or 07903664873 registration is *free*

your information pack and sponsorship forms will be sent to you

We look forward to hearing from you



All money will be matched funded by Basepoint and
we thank them for their support

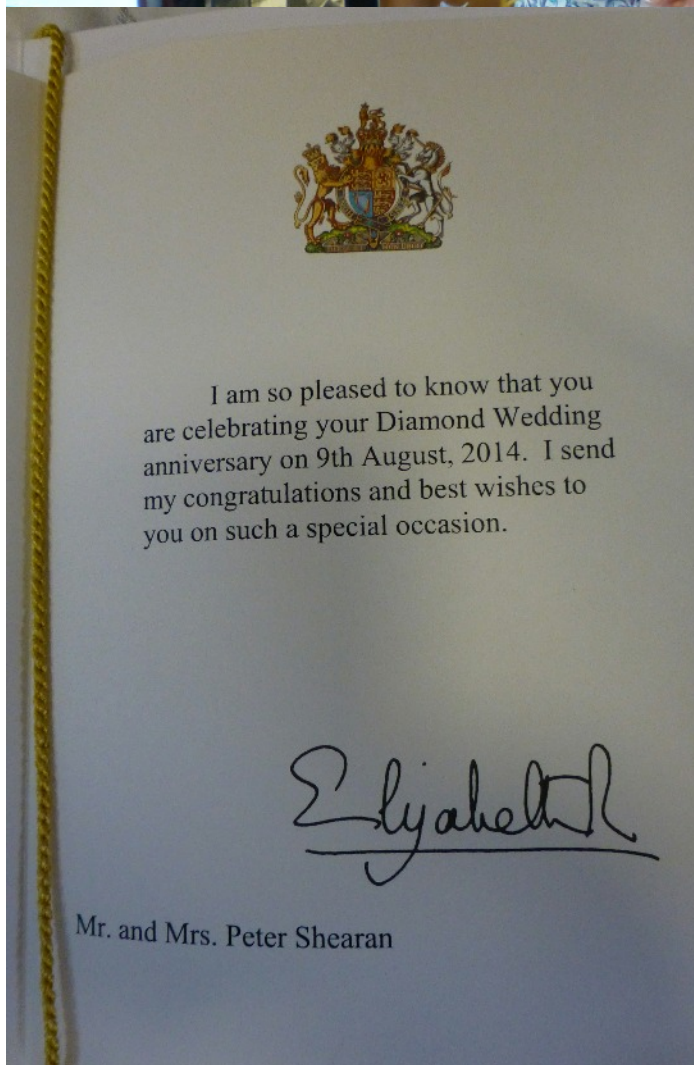


www.alz-dem.org

Registered charity 1024385



9th August Marian and Peter Shearan celebrated their Diamond/60th Wedding Anniversary





ARE YOU AN EX-MERCHANT SEAMAN?

HAVE YOU WORKED ON THE RIVER?

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE
GRAVESEND MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION?**

We are a small group of ex-seamen (and their wives) - all of whom either worked on the river or on merchant ships in some capacity or who had some type of contact with the sea or river, i.e. training cadets, We meet on the last Saturday in each month in the restaurant at The Waterloo public house, Wellington Street, Gravesend at 13.00 hrs.

We would be pleased to welcome you to our meetings

We organise many trips during the year and all enjoy a group Christmas lunch. We are all volunteers and enjoy meeting together. We are quite active and visible in the town of Gravesend but many of our members come from other parts of the country and even Canada!

If you are interested then come along and perhaps meet old shipmates.

**Wednesday 3 September is Merchant Navy Day and
there will be a short outdoor service at Bawley Bay,
Royal Pier Road, at 10.30 am to which you are
invited**

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.



HOLY BAPTISM

6th July

Albert Charles Bonen
Riley John Fairweather
Isabelle Elizabeth Moody
Elliott Joseph Datlin

20th July

Charlie James Leslie Fisher
Jamie John Wood
Macey Eve Collins
Emily Louise Olivia Scammell

3rd August

Lauren Elizabeth Franklin
Lacie Sue Stapley
Brooke Aimee Gaymet
Bradie Leigh Gaymer
Enjay Mark Gaymer

HOLY MATRIMONY

28th June

Stuart William Abrey and Rebecca Mary Diane Ripley

5th July

Robert Kenneth Diss and Wendy Ann Thornton

12th July

Stephen Harold Bath and Catherine Cassandra Coleman

12th July

Leigh Robert Hatton and Marie-Claire Elizabeth Irwin

24th July

James Daniel Bradford and Simone Huckstepp

9th August

Benjamin Archie Brown and Lianne Tracey Johnson

CONFIRMATION

27th July

Olufunke Titilade Adeyinka
Sarah Jane Baker
Nicola Claire Banks
Anna Caroline Bardoe
Natalie Elizabeth Hazel Gibbons
Kelly Marie Goodayle
Rachael Toni Hoiles Pritchard
Nina Jane Thomas

WELCOMED INTO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

27th July

Christopher Benedict Gibbons

REST IN PEACE

9th April

Audrey Rose Finch

21st April

Brian Thwaite

21st April

Muriel Bond

7th June

Donald Green

5th July

Golda Humphrey

15th July

Beth Sharon Joy Gladwell

18th July

Hugh Kennedy Sharp

Sunday 21st September 5 30pm

Summer Praise

- songs, readings and music with the SA Band

at the Salvation Army Citadel, The Grove

everyone welcome.

Can you help with things for the pre-school activities

We are short of buttons, corks and shells. The children love playing with these and they are great for craft activities and for sorting and counting, so if people can collect these again that would be great. We are also collecting Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's.

The number we collected last year helped to buy gardening equipment and a camera.

So thanking you all for your help. Sue x

GRAVESHAM FOOD BANK

Many thanks to those who support the food bank.

Below is a list of items required at the moment

Milk (UHT) - Custard

Toothpaste - Hot chocolate

Shampoo - Sweets/treats

Breakfast cereal (not porridge) - Marmite

Fruit juice/squash - Toilet roll

Sponge pudding - Deodorant

Tinned potatoes - Laundry liquid/tablets

This list is only a few of the items that can help those less fortunate than ourselves, any tinned or non-perishable items are most welcome



Pictured left to right at the service to celebrate 20 years of the ordination of women priests.

The Reverend Gladys Atfield, The Reverend Canon Nicholas Papadopoulos, The Reverend Jacqueline Littlewood, The Reverend Canon Jane Lloyd, The Reverend Pat Iveson, The Reverend Wendy Cranidge.





**Pictures taken during the
memorial and commemoration
service held at the Windmill Hill
Memorial on August 4**





THE WARRIORS' CHAPEL

In 1922 the then Bishop of Rochester dedicated this Warriors' Chapel to remember all those men of the parish who fell in the Great War. At the same time a tablet was included within the Chapel listing those whom the parish wished to commemorate. The tablet was lost during the move of the church from Parrock Road to this site, but records of those names remain, and are listed here. It has also been possible to put together further information about most of those men; the pamphlet 'The Great War 1914-1918: Roll of Honour' is also included here

JOSEPH AMOS
FRANK S ATKINS
JOHN C BETTS
FREDERICK J BENSON
FRANKLIN C BEVEN
ARTHUR G BROAD
JOHN T BURVILLE
FELIX C BUSH
DANIEL G BUTCHER
GEORGE W CHAPMAN
JOHN H CHAWNER
SIDNEY C CHRISTMAS
FREDK W COLBOURNE
FREDERICK J COPPINS
FRED COSGROVE
LOUIS C COSGROVE
FREDK R DENNIS
FRANK DODD
PERCY F DODD
CHARLES W ELFORD
HAROLD FORD
CHARLES FOX
JOHN N GARBUTT
WILLIAM GARDINER
GEORGE GARLAND
A W DONALD GIBSON
REGINALD GOATHAM
FRANCIS W GRAY
WILLIAM F GREENER
ERNEST E HENNIKER
ALBERT J HOLDEN
ALBERT E IVES
DUNCAN MCI JOEL
EDGAR C JOEL
VERNON KING
WILFRED F LAMBERT

GEORGE T LINTOTT
MALCOLM C MUIRHEAD
C CHARLES H NIBLETT
T HOWARD M PATTON
JOHN PARSONS
LESLIE A A POYNTER
JAMES PRISLEY
EDWARD W READ
ERIC C RUSSELL
FREDK C SEDGE
WILLIAM A SEDGE
GEORGE SHROSBREE
VERNON B SHORTER
ROBERT W SPICE
JOHN H SURMAN
WILLIAM TAIT
GEORGE R TAYLOR
CHRISTOPHER V N VINE
ALFRED F WALTON
STANLEY A V WARE
FREDK L WEST
PERCIVAL T WEST
HAROLD WICKENS
FRANK WILDER
HENRY E WILLIAMS
WILLIAM A WRIGHT

While the commemoration service was taking place at the War Memorial, Clarence Place, Christ Church was holding its own service which was attended by the Bishop of Rochester, the Right Reverend James Langstaff, who took part in remembering all those who were affected by the ravages of WW1

Our pictures show the Warriors' Chapel and crosses laid on the evening.

THEY WERE A WALL TO US,
BOTH BY NIGHT AND BY DAY
1 SAMUEL XXV,16

More stories of WW1 and memories passed down the years

Major George Henry Comport

When we think of the soldiers of the 1st World War, we often think of a generation of young men going off to fight. My great-grandfather, George Henry Comport, is a reminder that not all those who fought were young.

George was born in 1868 and was already 45 years old in 1914. He had been a Post Office Telegraph Superintendent Engineer in civilian life, and joined the Royal Engineers. He first landed in France in October 1914 as a temporary Captain in the 2nd Lowland Field Company and was mentioned in despatches for services in France in 1916. In 1917 he was made temporary Major and he was awarded the Military Cross in 1917. When the war ended in 1918 he was still on active service and already 50 years old.

There is a family story that he was able to use his knowledge of telegraphy to improve communication within the division – although I have not been able to verify this.

Sue Brewer



The Great War

Another of our parishioners has a family story and keepsake from the "Great War"

My dad found in one of the mud filled trenches a small china shoe with the word Blackburn inscribed on it. He cleaned it up but found it did not belong to any of those that were still alive.

He was badly gassed and sent home, maybe that saved his life. He died at the age of 84 and I now have the shoe in my possession.

Mavis Casely



Pictured left is the Peace Candle and an world war one empty shell case that stood at the front of the church during the commemoration service held on August 4

Rosherville

V.A.D. Hospital

At the outbreak of WW1 the Kent/42 and /92 Voluntary Aid Detachments (V.A.D.s) quickly established two hospitals near Gravesend - in the Yacht Club and in the Parish Room at All Hallows, east of the town. On 15th October 1914 the first patients arrived - wounded Belgian soldiers - and all available beds were filled.

The property of Mr John Russell, the long disused Rosherville Hotel on the west side of Lansdowne Square, was then requisitioned. (The Victorian Rosherville Gardens had finally closed in 1913 after a brief revival.) Each of the hotel's many rooms was allocated to a volunteer, who was

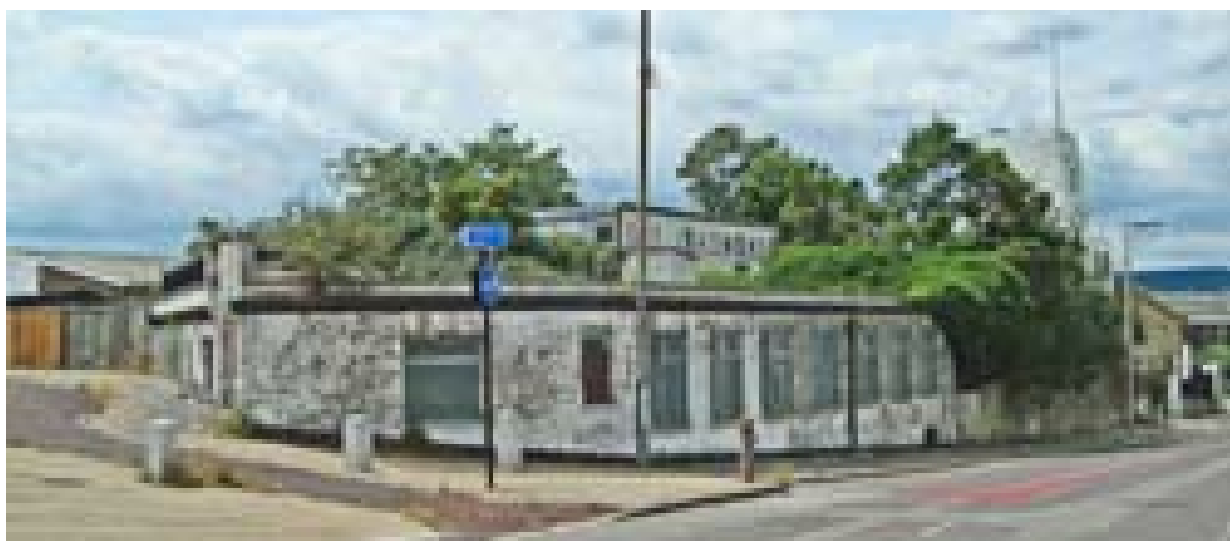
responsible for its furnishing. In this way, the Hospital was made ready without any call being made on local or country funds.

The Rosherville V.A.D. Hospital opened in November 1914 with 64 beds for enlisted men and, in its turn, was quickly filled. The Hospital was affiliated with the Graylingwell War Hospital in Chichester. It had a fully equipped operating theatre, a surgery for dressing wounds and a dispensary.

In 1917 the patient accommodation was increased to 126 beds and, in July, when Ingress Abbey became an annexe to the Hospital, it had a bed complement of 201.

The convalescent patients were entertained by the local population, who arranged regular whist drives and concerts. In the summer, river trips were provided by the local pilots.

The Hospital closed on 31st January 1919.



EllenorLions Hospices
"without them we would have been lost"



CHIPS
Hospices
"Hospice care for children & young people"

COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 12 September, 10.00 - 12.00

COLDHARBOUR ROAD, NORTHFLEET

Admission 80p including tea or coffee



Stories of WW1 and memories passed down the years

Great- Aunt Ethel

My early memories of Great-Aunt Ethel are of a rather austere lady much given to large hats. There was nothing much to distinguish her from my Grandmothers and other Great-Aunts of that generation but I became aware that something in her history did, in fact, set her apart from



her contemporaries; Great-Aunt Ethel had served in World War 1.

I slowly gleaned from other family members that when her brother William went to fight in France Ethel decided to go too. A little research has discovered that she joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later to be renamed Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps, with the Queen as Commander-in-Chief.

Although in uniform and working under the War Office the Corps was essentially a civilian formation, which explains why Ethel rejoiced in the rank of Acting Forewoman. In France she spent much of her time driving ambulances. It must have been a devastating blow to learn that the brother

she had followed to France was killed in March 1918. He is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.

John Hougham

My story about the First World War is unusual and very different from most. My Grandfather was born in Germany in 1866 and came to London as an apprentice in 1880. Prior to the First World War, Anglo-German families were quite common across all classes. My Grandmother was Cornish and they had 3 children, my mother being the youngest. My Grandfather returned to Germany once – in 1934 – and was due to visit again with my Grandmother in 1938 when my grandparents received a letter asking them not to come as it was now dangerous to be known to have British relatives.

Before the First World War there was considerable interchange of people between Britain and Germany and many split families. My Grandfather was in the process of being naturalised when war commenced in August 1914, I understand that inertia was why it took so long for him to commence the process.

In common with many enemy aliens, and despite the fact that both his sons (my uncles) were serving with the Middlesex Regiment in Flanders, he was interned for some time in the Isle of Man though later released to resume life as a clock and watch repairer in Middlesex.

My mother was 11 in 1917 when she was due to change schools. Despite passing the examination to go to a Grammar School in Ealing, she was denied the place as her father was an enemy alien. This, of course, totally disregarded that both of her brothers were on active service in the British Army. As a footnote, my mother's older brother died of wounds in the autumn of 1918 and is buried in Poperinghe, West-Vlaanderen (about 8 miles west of Ypres).

The author who contributed this prefers to remain anonymous

Name	Rank	Service Number	Date of Death	Age	Regiment Service	Service Country	Grave/ Memorial	Cemetery Memorial Reference Name
KIENZLE, H A	Private	36230	28/02/1918		Middlesex United Regiment	United Kingdom	XIII. D. 18. BRITISH CEMETERY	NINE ELMS

Local Hero from WW1 and recipient of the Victoria Cross

Thomas Riversdale Colyer-Fergusson VC (18 February 1896 – 31 July 1917) was an English recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. Born in London in February 1896 to Thomas Colyer-Fergusson and the late Beatrice Stanley.

Colyer-Fergusson was 21 years old, and an acting captain in the 2nd Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment, British Army when performed the deed on 31 July 1917 at Bellewaarde, Belgium which earned him the Victoria Cross. He was shot dead by a sniper that day.

Citation reads.

For most conspicuous bravery, skilful leading and determination in attack. The tactical situation having developed contrary to expectation, it was not possible for his company to adhere to the original plan of deployments, and owing to the difficulties of the ground and to enemy wire, Captain Colyer-Fergusson found himself with a Sergeant and five men only. He carried out the attack nevertheless, and succeeded in capturing the enemy trench and disposing of the garrison. His party was then threatened by a heavy counter-attack from the left front, but this attack he successfully resisted. During this operation, assisted



by his Orderly only, he attacked and captured an enemy machine gun and turned it on the assailants, many of whom were killed and a large number driven into the hands of an adjoining British unit. Later, assisted only by his Sergeant, he again attacked and captured a second enemy machine gun, by which time he had been joined by other portions of his company, and was enabled to consolidate his position. The conduct of this officer throughout forms an amazing record of dash, gallantry and skill, for which no reward can be too great, having regard to the importance of the position won. This gallant officer was shortly afterwards killed by a sniper.

—The London Gazette," No. 30272, dated 4 September 1917

Jo Drew

On 31st August we will say 'farewell' to Jo with a special service at which she will preside and preach, followed by a BBQ for the whole church family. Please come to give Jo a good send off, and to show our appreciation for all she has given to us at Christ Church over these last 3 years.

Jo joined us in the summer of 2011, and was ordained deacon at a wonderful inspiring service in the Cathedral in September; and made priest at St Botolph's Church a year later. Her ministry among us has been marked by love and compassion for all, by gentle encouragement and building up of various groups within the church, and by sensitive leading of worship. Jo has been instrumental in setting up Mustard Seed,

in establishing a regular ministry to Nelson Court, and in encouraging quiet reflection before and during our services. She has been a champion of the Foodbank and of Semiquavers and of much more, both within and outside the church. You will have your



particular memories of Jo at services, celebrations, Lenten reflections, social events, working parties and so much else. She has made many, many friends while she has been here – and those who know her best know that we don't see the half of what she does! She will be greatly missed – **Goodbye Jo, and thank you!**



Top: A German prisoner helps British wounded make their way to a dressing station near Bernafay Wood following fighting on Bazentin Ridge, 19 July 1916, during the Battle of the Somme.

Bottom: British 55th (West Lancashire) Division troops blinded by tear gas await treatment at an Advanced Dressing Station near Bethune during the Battle of Estaires, 10 April 1918, part of the German offensive in Flanders.

Both photographs are from the collections of the Imperial War Museum



christian
aid

QUIZ

**SATURDAY 20th
SEPTEMBER**

At 7.30 pm

In CHRIST CHURCH HALL

**Tickets £5 per person
Tables of 6-8 people**

**Bring your own
refreshments**

Raffle



**To book a table please ring
Julie on 01474 568265 or
email juliehill34@aol.com**

ON THE WIRE

1. O God, take the sun from the sky!
It's burning me, scorching me up.
God, can't You hear my cry?
Water! A poor, little cup!
It's laughing, the cursed sun!
See how it swells and swells
Fierce as a hundred hells!
God, will it never have done?
It's searing the flesh on my bones;
It's beating with hammers red
My eyeballs into my head;
It's parching my very moans.
See! It's the size of the sky,
And the sky is a torrent of fire,
Foaming on me as I lie
Here on the wire . . . the wire. . .

2. Of the thousands that wheeze and hum
Heedlessly over my head,
Why can't a bullet come,
Pierce to my brain instead,
Blacken forever my brain,
Finish forever my pain?
Here in the hellish glare
Why must I suffer so?
Is it God doesn't care?
Is it God doesn't know?
Oh, to be killed outright,
Clean in the clash of the fight!
That is a golden death,
That is a boon; but this . . .
Drawing an anguished breath
Under a hot abyss,
Under a stooping sky
Of seething, sulphurous fire,
Scorching me up as I lie
Here on the wire . . . the wire. . .

3. Hasten, O God, Thy night!
Hide from my eyes the sight
Of the body I stare and see
Shattered so hideously.
I can't believe that it's mine.
My body was white and sweet,
Flawless and fair and fine,
Shapely from head to feet;
Oh no, I can never be
The thing of horror I see
Under the rifle fire,
Trussed on the wire . . . the wire. . .

4. Of night and of death I dream;
Night that will bring me peace,
Coolness and starry gleam,
Stillness and death's release:
Ages and ages have passed, —
Lo! it is night at last.
Night! but the guns roar out.
Night! but the hosts attack.
Red and yellow and black
Geysers of doom upspout.
Silver and green and red
Star-shells hover and spread.
Yonder off to the right
Fiercely kindles the fight;
Roaring near and more near,
Thundering now in my ear;
Close to me, close . . . Oh, hark!
Someone moans in the dark.
I hear, but I cannot see,
I hear as the rest retire,
Someone is caught like me,
Caught on the wire . . . the wire. . .

5. Again the shuddering dawn,
Weird and wicked and wan;
Again, and I've not yet gone.
The man whom I heard is dead.
Now I can understand:
A bullet hole in his head,
A pistol gripped in his hand.
Well, he knew what to do, —
Yes, and now I know too. . .

6. Hark the resentful guns!
Oh, how thankful am I
To think my beloved ones
Will never know how I die!
I've suffered more than my share;
I'm shattered beyond repair;
I've fought like a man the fight,
And now I demand the right
(God! how his fingers cling!)
To do without shame this thing.
Good! there's a bullet still;
Now I'm ready to fire;
Blame me, God, if You will,
Here on the wire . . . the wire. . .

Written by Robert W Service
Robert William Service was born in Lancashire,
England on January 16, 1874. During World War 1
he served with the Red Cross on the Western front
in the ambulance corps.

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

Youth activities for all young people—School Yrs 7—11.

**Regular meetings will be between 4.00-5.30pm
at the 'Word on the Street' house, 7 Warrior Avenue,
Gravesend DA12 5NA**

**6 September from 16.00 - 7 Warrior Avenue
20 September from 16.00 - 7 Warrior Avenue**

WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND ALONG TO ENJOY THE EVENING

For more information contact:

Lusa 01474 352500

lusansenga@googlemail.com

Sue 01474 352643

suec@brewer86.plus.com

Richard 01474 249792

ramartin@talktalk.net

Jo 01474 364367

revjodrew@btinternet.com



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 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!

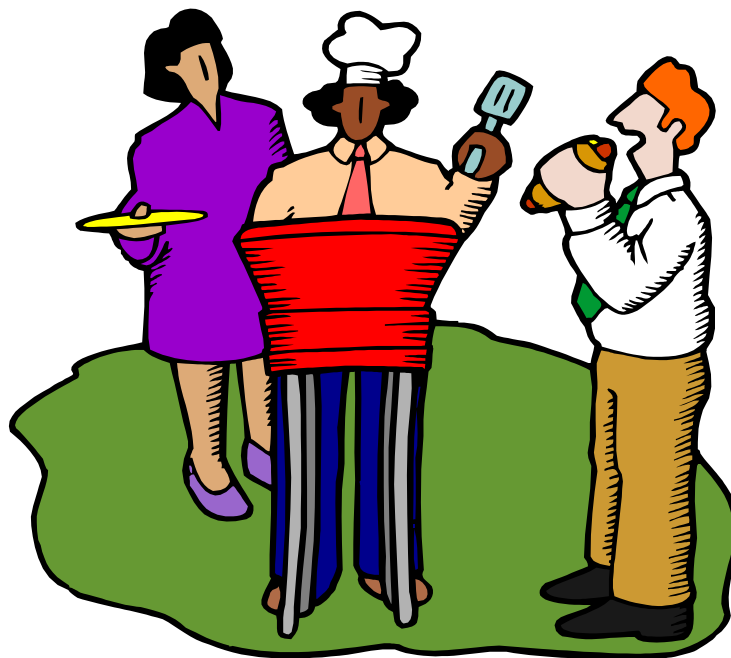
The Mustard Seed is in its second year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 18 September**. You are so welcome.

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

CHURCH FAMILY BBQ

WELCOME

TO THE CHURCH



ALL WELCOME
PLEASE COME



Family tour of Gravesend with children's quiz

On: Wednesday 27th August 2014

Meet: 11am outside Gravesend Library, Windmill Street

Guide: Christoph Bull 07702287147

Cost: £3 per adult – children under 12 free

Come and enjoy a tour through Gravesend's murky past – a quiz is available for children to do on the tour itself. The event is organised by The Gr@nd Healthy Living Centre – a small prize for the winners will be available- more details from Carl Dowsing-Webster 01474 320123.

Guided tour of Northfleet

On: Friday 12th September 2014

Meet: 11am outside St Botolph church lych gate, The Hill, Northfleet

Guide: Christoph Bull 07702287147

Cost: £3 per person – no need to book just turn up.

Optional refreshments at the Coach and Horses, The Hill, Northfleet.

Discover the fantastic story of Northfleet – one of Kent's "Mother" parishes – and its role in industry and the Civil War.

Local History and Chips – illustrated talk on Princess Pocahontas (not the Disney version)

On: Monday 15th September 2014

At: Reliance Fish Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend – by ticket only – booking required – phone Reliance Restaurant 01474 533593

Time: Meal begins at 6pm sharp, talk to follow.

Speaker: Christoph Bull

Cost: £12 includes fish and chip supper and talk

Guided historical walk around Swanscombe Marshes

On: Sunday 21st September 2014

Meet: 2.30pm outside George & Dragon pub, Galley Hill, Swanscombe

Guide: Christoph Bull 07702287147

Cost: Donations welcome – no need to book just turn up.

This is a footpath walk with uneven surfaces – sensible footwear will be needed



Gravesham Citizens Advice Bureau

New Citizens Advice Bureau Drop-in

**Venue: Northfleet Veteran's Club, The Hill,
Northfleet, DA11 9EU**

**Every Friday morning
10.30-12.30**

No appointment needed!

**Help with Employment, Housing, Consumer,
Relationships, Benefits, Debt problems... and much more**

Free, independent, confidential and impartial advice.

www.graveshamcab.org.uk



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




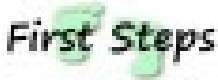

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)	
Monday	Music Group; Brownies	
Tuesday	Cubs and Semiquavers	<i>girls in the lead</i>
Wednesday	Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)	
	First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm	
	Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday)	
Thursday	Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice:	
3.00 p.m.	Mustard Seed (every third)	
2 - 3.30	Forgetmenot Singing 2nd & 4th Thurs afternoon	
Friday	Scouts; Parent and Toddler	
Saturday	Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)	

CALENDAR SEPTEMBER 2014

Sunday 		7 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	14 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 18.30 EVENSONG	21 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	28 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday 	1 08.00 Service 16.45 Service	8 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	15 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	22 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	29 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES
Tuesday 	2 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	9 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	16 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	23 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	30 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers
Wednesday 	3 10.00 Service 16.45 Service	10 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 16.45 Service	17 10.00 Service 16.45 Service	24 10.00 Service 16.45 Service	
Thursday 	4 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	11 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	18 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	25 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	
Friday 	5 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	12 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	19 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	26 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	
Saturday 	6 08.00 Service	13 08.00 Service 09.30 working party	20 08.00 Service 14.30 Service	27 08.00 Service	