

CHRIST CHURCH MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND



JANUARY 2015

Fourteen pages with colour pictures of events leading up to Christmas are you in the frame?

Libby Lane our first women Bishop Page 6

The African Children's Choir Page 7/8/9

Isparc Charity event Page 21/28

Donation or **40p**

Scan the smart code below to go to our web site



Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday **18 January**, for February 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

Christ Church Milton-Next-Gravesend

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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			
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			
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January 2015

Paws for Thought When You Make Your New Years Resolutions

Every year Battersea Dogs & Cats Home finds forever homes for thousands of animals through their centres in Battersea, Brands Hatch and Old Windsor. The Home receives no government funding and in 2015 will need to raise over £15m through voluntary donations to continue giving dogs and cats the second chance they deserve.

Battersea is calling upon local individuals, schools, groups and companies to show their support by doing their own fundraising through simple events like tea parties, quiz nights, non uniform days and sponsored dog walks. Why not put your best paw forward this New Year and join in the fun!

If you'd like to get involved in helping Battersea, they would love to hear from you! Please contact your Regional Community Fundraiser, Victoria Lawrence, on 07590 173456 or at v.lawrence@battersea.org.uk

Exciting 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 6.15 pm to 7.30 pm

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.



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

COFFEE ROYA 2015

4 Jan Vena Croydon, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson

11 Jan Sandy Barden, Kay Page, Susan Wilkins

18 Jan Julieann Bodle, Angela Kirby, David/ Martin

25 Jan Tim Mcarther, Bianca Mcarther, Dorothy Oliver

1 Feb Jenny Shoesmith, Chris Gibbons, Sarah Smith



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



vet 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 14 January.

FORST STEPS

10TH DECEMBER 2014 THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Our naughty little sheep is up bright and early; it's our First Steps service this afternoon and he wants to see what the weather is like. I usually have to drag him out of bed on these cold, dark mornings, so it makes a refreshing change! Bless him! It is a beautiful clear sunshiny morning, though he tells me that it's freezing cold outside and it makes his wool stand on end when he tests the air! It's still lovely and bright for our walk up to church with his friends later, but they're all complaining that it's very cold. Luckily when we get into church it's toasty and warm; lovely! Our naughty little sheep and his best friend the glittery dragon wait to get onto our little altar while their friends rush off to claim the best seats. Once again they're all hoping that the children will give them a cuddle; they are such cuddly creatures! Soon everything is set up and ready for our service and Mums, Grandmas, children and babies come in to join us and to hear the Christmas story. Our naughty little sheep whispers to me that it's his very, very favourite story and he never gets tired of hearing it. When everyone is sitting comfortably with jingle bells at the ready and our naughty little sheep and the glittery dragon are sitting on our altar and their friends are all being cuddled, it is time for our service to begin.

We light our altar candles and then we begin our Christmas story. We've borrowed the knitted Nativity figures from the Pre-school as usual and with the help of some of our children we tell that wonderful story. Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem and when they can't find anywhere nice and comfortable to stay they finally end up staying in a cow shed! Would you believe it? Stanley and Riley bring Mary and

Joseph to our altar. Then Mary's baby is born in that dirty, dusty, chilly place and Holly brings our little baby Jesus to join them. Mary has wrapped the baby in special cloths to keep him warm. Angel guided shepherds arrive at the cowshed, much to everyone's surprise, and they've brought three sheep with them. Soon they, too, are arranged on our altar. Our naughty little sheep is keeping a very close eye on the proceedings. Last but not least our three wise men come knocking on the door. They have followed a very special star to this unlikely place and they've brought some special presents with them. Stanley remembers that Gold and Myrrh were two of the presents. Well done, him! The last present was Frankincense, of course. It is an amazing, wonderful story!! We thank God for coming alongside us in Jesus and for the very many gifts that He gives to us each day. We thank Him for bringing us together today and for the beauty of the world around us and for times of fun and laughter. How very lucky and blessed we are! Everyone is very quiet as we say the prayer that Jesus taught us; the Lord's Prayer and then our story has been told and our service is over.

We all go out into the hall for some Christmas treats; we're beginning to get into the spirit of Christmas with mince tarts and German chocolate covered gingerbread. Yum!! Our naughty little sheep and his friends are at the front of the queue as usual. They tell me how

much they enjoyed our Christmas story and they loved singing "Away in a Manger" and "Jingle Bells" and loved hearing the children sing, too. They hope that everyone has a lovely Christmas and wish everyone every blessing in the New Year ahead. And they hope that everyone will join us on the 14 January when we'll be well and truly in the New Year for our next First Steps service.

God Bless Rosemary Austin

Reverend Libby Lane named as CofE's first female bishop

The Reverend Libby Lane has been announced as the first female bishop for the Church of England, just a month after a historic change to canon law.

She will become the new Bishop of Stockport, a post that has been vacant since May.

Mrs Lane has been the vicar at St Peter's Hale and St Elizabeth's Ashley, in the diocese of Chester, since 2007.

The appointment will end centuries of male leadership of the Church and comes 20 years after women became priests.

Mrs Lane was ordained a deacon in 1993 and a priest in 1994, serving her curacy in Blackburn, Lancashire. Since 2010 she has also held the role of Dean of Women in Ministry for the diocese of Chester.

Speaking at Stockport town hall the new bishop, whose role was approved by the Queen, said it was a "remarkable day for me and an historic day for the Church".

"I'm honoured and thankful to be called to serve as the next Bishop of Stockport and not a little daunted to be entrusted with such a ministry."

Prime Minister David Cameron congratulated Mrs Lane and said: "This is an historic appointment and an important step forward for the Church towards greater equality in its senior positions".



Mrs Lane will be consecrated as the eighth bishop of the town at a ceremony at York Minster on 26 January.

The first women priests were ordained in 1994, but to date women have not been able to take on the Church's most senior roles.



AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Helping Africa's most vulnerable children today...

...so they can help Africa tomorrow.



Saturday 17 January 2015 7.30pm

Gravesend Methodist Church

Gravesend

Adult £5 Child £3

Tickets Available from Robert Hardy at Gravesend Methodist on 01474 357681 or email

roberthardy33@gmall.com
A Free Will Offering will also be lifted

www.africanchildrenschoir.org.uk



The African Children's Choir are in concert at: GRAVESEND METHODIST CHURCH on SATURDAY 17 JANUARY at 7.30 pm

The African Children's Choir melts the hearts of audiences with their charming smiles, beautiful voices and lively African songs and dances.

The programme features well-loved children's songs, traditional Spirituals and rhythmic Gospel favourites. Nearly every performance is concluded with a thunderous standing ovation! In spite of the tragedy that has marred their young lives, the children are radiant with hope, musically gifted and always wonderfully entertaining.

Proceeds from Choir performances allow the African Children's Choir to raise global awareness of the plight of the millions of orphaned and abandoned children in Africa. Donations directly support the expansion of sponsorship and education programmes for both the current Choir children and the thousands of other students they represent.

Tickets are priced at £5 each (£3 for children age 12 and under) and will be sold only in advance.

THERE WILL NOT BE TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE DOOR

All seats will be numbered and allocated on receipt of your application – the only options available are: Ground Floor or Balcony.

There are a limited number of (ground floor) wheelchair spaces.

To order your tickets please send the form (duly filled in) together with the correct remittance and a stamped addressed envelope to:

Robert Hardy, 16 Fairfields, Gravesend, Kent DA12 4QG.

Tickets will be issued only on receipt of the form opposite, with the correct money, and will be allocated in order of arrival to Robert Hardy.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Gravesend Methodist Church'

If you have any questions then please email me at: roberthardy33@gmail.com or telephone 01474 357681. I am unable to take bookings by e mail or phone but happy to answer questions.

More information about the choir can be found on their website:

www.africanchildrenschoir.com

Volunteers needed....

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

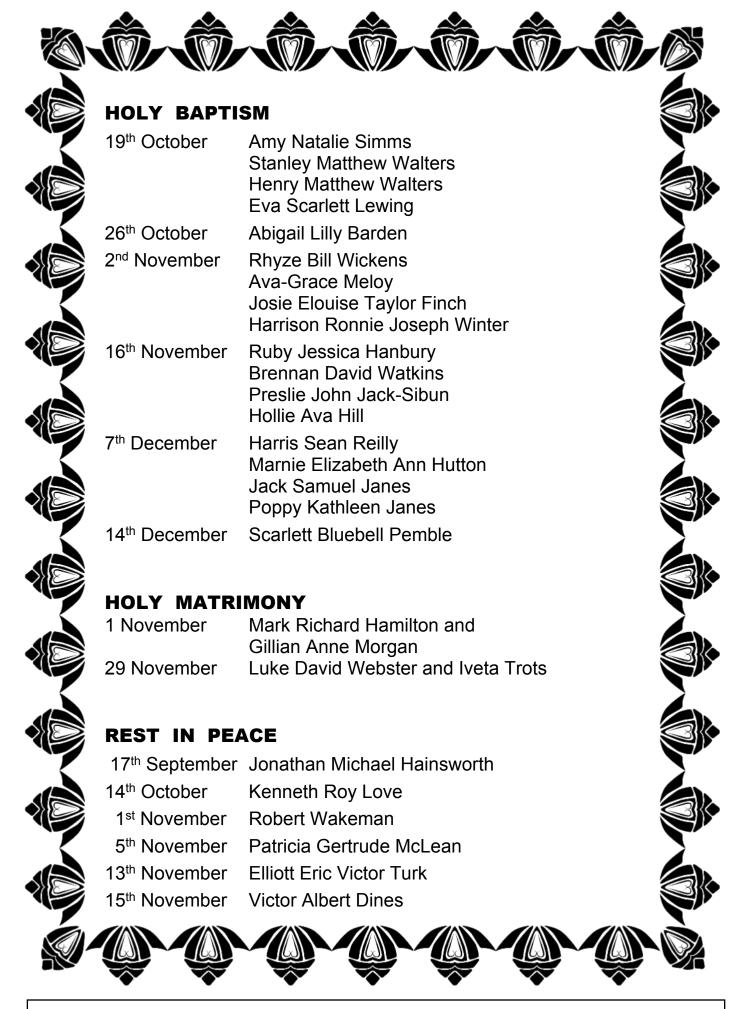
If you have time and enthusiasm to spare but you are not sure where your talents can be used,

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

ORDER FORM FOR TICKETS

AFRICAN CHILDRENS CHOIR - GRAVESEND METHODIST CHURCH -**SATURDAY 17 JANUARY 2015**

	Please return this order form, as soon as possible, to:
	Robert Hardy 16 Fairfields Gravesend Kent DA12 4QG
	With the correct money and a stamped addressed envelope (for posting of tickets to you)
	NAME
	AD- DRE SS
	TOWN
1	POSTCODE
I	TEL NUMBER(S)
	E-mail
	Number of Adult tickets requested @£5 Ground Floor or Balcony
	(delete as necessary)
ı	Number of Child tickets requested @£3 Ground Floor or Balcony
	(delete as necessary)
	Total cash/cheque enclosed £ Cheques should be made payable to
	'Gravesend Methodist Church'
	Please state below if any of the above tickets are for a wheelchair space and also if a seat is required nearby the wheelchair, for an accompanier.
	If a wheelchair user is able to transfer to one of the church pews that would be good as wheelchair spaces are limited, if that is possible then please advise if an end of row seat would be needed or not.
	Please note that this order form does not guarantee tickets as requested – tickets will be issued on a first come, first served basis. If we are unable to fulfil your order then we will contact you by phone or email so please ensure that your details are completed above. Tickets will be posted to you (in your stamped addressed envelope) soon after my receipt of your order.





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 10 January at 9.30.

See you there, **Sue**



semi-uavers semi-viavers

The Semiquavers choir entertain shoppers at the Kreme Doughnut Krispy Theatre, Bluewater Shopping Centre Greenhithe before getting some handsexperience at the on doughnut machines and of course some tasty samples to get their teeth into



Christmas 2014

A familiar scene depicting the stable following the birth of Jesus, produced by the children at Christ Church nursery school

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





The Semiquavers choir entertain the audience in Christ Church at their concert on Tuesday 16 December





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!

TheMustard Seed is in its second year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 15 January.** You are so welcome.

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

TABLE TOP SALE SUCCESS

Our pictures show just four of the charity tables at the event organised by Margo Edwards and held on Saturday 6 December



More activities for the children of Christ Church as they get together before the Christmas break and a well earned rest for the group leaders of both brownies, pictured together in the church hall, and Semiquavers who are seen here carol singing at Hope Hill, Meopham







Do you or members of your family have any interesting stories from World War l

As part of the national commemorations of WW1 we are looking to reproduce stories that congregation members might like to submit of their relatives, or local men, who engaged in the conflict!

If you have a family story, perhaps with a photograph of the person you are writing about that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an edition of Christ Church magazine over the next four years please let Sue Brewer or Mike Cubitt know.

We are hoping to get enough copy to hable a different story to be produced in e-magazine during the four year anniversary period.

All photographs will be returned, but please mark on the back your name and address.



Members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs) tending the graves of fallen British soldiers in a cemetery at Abbeville in 1918.

Carol Service at Christ Church

Members of the church choir and music group sing at the Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21 December, to a very appreciative congregation.



PEACE CANDLE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE THAT WENT BEFORE

You may well have seen the 'Peace Candle' that was used at the WW1 commemoration service on 4th August, now in the sanctuary. The candle will remain in place throughout the 4 years of commemoration and will be lit at each Sunday and Wednesday service, as a reminder to us all to pray for



peace in the many areas of conflict throughout the world. When you see the candle, please remember to pray for those caught up in conflict.

The sign near to the candle records the areas of conflict most in our prayers at any given time (though there are other 'hidden' conflicts that rarely appear on our televisions). If you would like an area of the world added to the list, please speak to Revs Sue or Jacqueline.

CHRIST CHURCH TOTS

For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers

Come and enjoy this fun and friendly Parent and Toddler group. We have a wide range of toys including ride-ons, trikes, push-chairs and slides

Baby area, crafts and play dough. Large garden area in good weather. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits

Friday 1.15-2.30 p.m. term time £1.50 per family

In the hall at Christ Church, Echo Square, Gravesend www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

ISparc

Ifield Foundation Special School in Cedar Avenue have a significant fundraising campaign underway, now that the KCC have agreed outline planning permission for a state-of-the-art disability sport, arts and cultural centre to be called iSparc. The centre will be built in the grounds of the school and will be used by the children, their families and the Community.

To support the project, why not come along to the Charity Gala Night at The Orchard



PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AS TICKETS <u>MUST</u> BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE — SEATING IS LIMITED

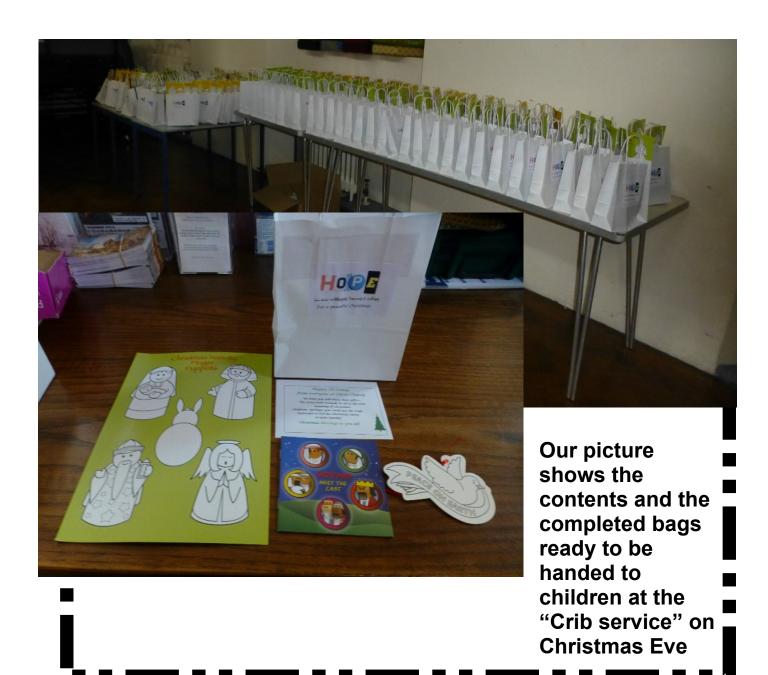
Theatre, Dartford. Call the box office on 01322 220000 for tickets. For more information on the iSparc project visit the school website at www.ifieldschool.com/

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



CHURCHES TOGETHER

Service for a week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Gravesend Methodist Church Milton Road Sunday 18 January at 18.30

The service will include the commissioning of new "Street Pastors"



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

10 January from 16.00 - 7 Warrior Avenue 24 January from 16.00 - 7 Warrior Avenue

WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND ALONG TO ENJOY THE EVENING

For more information contact:

Lusa 01474 352500 <u>lusansenga@googlemail.com</u>

Sue 01474 352643 <u>suec@brewer86.plus.com</u>

Richard 01474 249792 ramartin@talktalk.net

Do they Know it's Christmas time at all?

There can surely be no clearer indication of approaching Christmas than that, on Monday 1 December, I received a money off voucher for hot cross buns.



Church of England and Sustrans team up for cycling tours

The Church of England has teamed up with cycling charity Sustrans to produce a series of tours linking the country's Cathedrals and historic church buildings by bike.

The Towers and Spires series have been created to provide a new way to explore the country's magnificent church buildings. The materials have been published by ChurchCare which supports those looking after the Church of England's 16,000 churches and 42 Cathedrals.

Alzheimers & Dementia SUPPORT SERVICES

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services, based in Northfleet is a local charity for local people and here to offer help, advice and support to those living with Dementia. We can offer help in a numbers of ways:-

- v Day care,
- v Befriending
- v Support at Home/Support at Home plus/One to One Support
- v Carers Support Groups
- v 24 Helpline (0800 500 3014)
- v Singing for Brain
- v Dementia Cafes...... and so much more.

If you or someone you knows need help please contact us via our website, www.alz-dem.org or by telephoning us on 01474 533990 or by writing to Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services, The Basement, Dene Holm House, Dene Holm Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8JY. Email: alz-dem.org.uk

As with most charities nowadays we also need volunteers to help us. We have volunteer vacancies in all the above areas and of course in our fundraising efforts. If you would like to support us by becoming a member or raising funds for us, in sponsorship, holding an event, coffee morning or whatever you feel is appropriate, please do let us know and contact us.

Ghosts over North West Kent – a talk and dramatized readings

Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Coach & Horses,25 The Hill, Northfleet

On: Friday 30th January 2015 at 7.30pm

Price: £10 includes talk and fish & chip supper

Booking essential via Sharon Duffy at the Coach & Horses on 01474

395088

Ghosts over North West Kent on Candlemass Day – talk and dramatized readings (Repeated to satisfy demand)

Speaker: Christoph Bull

At: Reliance Fish Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend

On: Monday 2nd February 2015 at 6pm

Price: £12 includes talk and fish & chip supper

Booking essential via Reliance Fish Restaurant on 01474 533593

Starts promptly at 6pm for meal, talk to follow.

Guided tour of St Botolph's Church, Northfleet and meal at Coach & Horses public house.

Guide: Christoph Bull

Meet: Lych Gate, The Hill, Northfleet (Entrance to St Botolph's churchyard)

On Friday 27th February 2015 at 7pm (earlier than the other Coach & Horses talks)

Price: £12 – includes talk, meal and donation to St Botolph's Church Booking essential via Sharon Duffy at the Coach & Horses on 01474 395088

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

Girlguiding UK

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Regular activities and youth organisations

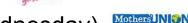
There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday Cubs and Semiquavers

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 JANUARY 2015

Sunday		08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.00 Evensong	11 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	18 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	25 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday		5 08.00 Service BROWNIES	12 08.00 Service BROWNIES	19 08.00 Service BROWNIES	26 08.00 Service BROWNIES
Tuesday		6 07.00 Service CUBS 18.130 Semiquavers	13 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	20 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquaverss	27 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquaverss
Wednesday		7 10.00 Service 20.00 Mother's Union	14 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps	21 10.00 Service	28 10.00 Service
Thursday	1 10.00 Service for New Year's Day	8 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	15 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir practice	07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	29 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice
Friday	2	9 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	16 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	23 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	30 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS
Saturday	3	10 08.00 Service Working Party 09.30	17 08.00 Service	08.00 Service	31 08.00 Service

CHARITY GALANIGHT Field School Penelza Fire the transfer Fire the

STARRING

GARETH GATES, BOBBY DAVRO, CHAS HODGES, DAVE BERRY, STAVROS FLATLEY,
PAUL BURLING, TWIST & PULSE, LENNY ZAKATEK AND A LIVE BAND.

LEN GOODMAN SCHOOL OF DANCING GROUP - JUICY.

THE NIGHT WILL BE JAM-PACKED WITH ENTERTAINMENT AND FUN!

HOSTED BY GOODMAZE AND SHED

IN AID OF

DEMELZA HOUSE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE AND IFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL



DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE

Ticket Office 01322 220000

Sunday 22 March 7.30pm Tickets £25.00*, £35.00* orchardtheatre.co.uk

*A £1.50 per ticket booking fee will be added to all transactions. Fee free for groups and Premiere Card.

Big thanks to all acts for appearing free. Appearance may be subject to professional commitments.