



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

Scan the smart
code below to go
to our web site



PARISH MAGAZINE

January 2016

Donation or **40p**

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Wednesday 20 January for February.

Copy: email to:-
ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk
Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

Inside this Month

| | |
|---------|-------------------------|
| Page 2 | Who's Who |
| Page 3 | Coffee rota |
| Page 4 | Archbishop Justin Welby |
| Page 5 | First Steps |
| Page 7 | BMDs |
| Page 9 | Semiquavers singing |
| Page 10 | Christmas flowers |
| Page 11 | Reportage |
| Page 12 | Christingle crafts |
| Page 13 | Party time |
| Page 16 | 200 club |
| Page 23 | Calendar for January |

Christ Church Hall is available for hire
Contact Rachel Pace
01474 249508 or 07960 024917
Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and children's parties

Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Vicar | Sue Brewer | 352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com |
| Associate Priest | Jacqueline Littlewood | 560106 |
| Assistant Curate | Karen Seggie | 362654 |
| Pastoral Assistant | Pam Kilby | 332693 |
| Pastoral Assistant | Jasmine Humphries | 249106 |
| Pastoral Assistant | Colin Parsonson | 359713 |
| Church Warden | Jan Osborne | 740763 |
| Church Warden | Andy Nailor | 564581 |
| PCC Secretary | Linda Riordan | 746988 |
| PCC Treasurer | Steve Humphries | 249106 |
| Reader | Rosemary Austin | 358702 |
| Reader | Sheila Brown | 356339 |
| Reader | John Hougham | 352138 |
| Reader | Betty Martin | 352696 |
| Reader | Martin Sewell | 745443 |

2016 Explore questions of faith

Some of you will have attended and taken part in 2015 and will be pleased to note that "The Pilgrim Course" continues into 2016 – an opportunity to explore questions of faith informally with others. No prior knowledge or participation required.

On 7 January we begin a new 6-session topic based on the 10 commandments – so this is a good time to join if you have never been before. Each session is 'stand alone' so no problem if you have to miss one.

The dates for your new diaries are Tuesdays 7 and 21 January and 4 February either 14.00 at 43 Park Avenue, Gravesend, or 19.30pm at No. 84 Tearoom and Eatery, Echo Square on each date.

A Last Beatitude

And blessed are the ones we overlook;

The faithful servers in the coffee rota,

The ones who hold no candle, bell or book,

But keep the books and tally up the quota,

The gentle souls who come to "do the flowers",

The quiet ones who organise the fete,

Church sitters who give up their weekday hours,

Doorkeepers who may open heaven's gate.

God knows the depths that often go unspoken

Amongst the shy, the quiet, and the kind,

Or the slow healing of a heart long broken,

Placing each flower so for a year's mind.

Invisible on earth, without a voice,

In heaven their angels glory and rejoice

COFFEE ROTA 2016

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
Sunday service**



Archbishop invites more young Christians to spend ‘a year in God’s time’

The Archbishop of Canterbury has invited more young Christians to join the Community of St Anselm at Lambeth Palace.

Applications are open for the second year of the programme, which offers people aged 20-35 the opportunity to spend ‘a year in God’s time’ as they live together as a community inspired by the monastic traditions.

The participants commit to a year of prayer, studying theology and ethics, and serving the poorest in local communities, adopting a pattern of life devoted to Jesus Christ that monastics down the centuries would recognise.

The first year of the programme has seen 36 young men and women forming a community based at Lambeth Palace. Sixteen residential members from around the world – including the USA, Kenya and Australia – have been joined by 20 nonresidential members who live and work in London.

Archbishop Justin Welby has made the renewal of prayer and Religious life a priority for his ministry.

The Prior of St Anselm, Anders Litzell said: “I’m looking for people who above everything else want to follow Jesus,



grow in likeness of Jesus by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and to the glory of God the Father. It is as simple as that. You can come from any Christian denomination and any part of the world.

“Our first intake have been here for three and a half months and it’s been an extraordinary journey. It’s been beautiful, it’s been challenging, it has been of God and I am deeply humbled, very excited for what the rest of this year will hold for the current members.”

Shannon Preston, a residential member from Minnesota, USA, said: “Having two hours a day to pray is unreal and I’m not sure where I would get that outside of this year. I show up and trust that God is there as well. It’s such a gift.”

You can find out more about The Community of St Anselm by visiting www.stanselm.org.uk

FIRST STEPS

**9TH DECEMBER 2015
CHRISTMAS**

My goodness, it's that time again. Christmas is almost upon us and our naughty little sheep and his friends are getting more and more excited as the days go by. It is a lovely blue skied afternoon for our walk up to church for our First Steps service. We're going to tell the Christmas story and our naughty little sheep tells me that it really is his very favourite story and he never gets tired of hearing it. And neither do I! Into church and our naughty little sheep and his friends makes themselves comfortable, ready for everyone to come and join us. Our naughty little sheep is so pleased because Linda has knitted him his very own Santa Claus hat and the glittery dragon has got a very smart red and white scarf. They both stand so proudly on our little altar, knowing how very festive they look!

First in today is Barbara with granddaughter Cecily. How lovely to see them again. Gradually the church fills up with Mums, Grandmas, children and babies. It is new baby Abigail's first visit to us. She is only a few weeks old and a real sweetie! When everybody is sitting comfortably we begin our service. Some of our bigger children help me to tell the Christmas Story by bringing up the different characters as we go along. First come Mary, and Joseph and a very tired donkey. They've had a long and tiring journey and a very difficult time finding somewhere to stay. And to make matters worse Mary has got a baby in her tummy and it's decided that it is time to come out! Poor Mary! They have had to shelter in an old stable and when baby Jesus does arrive Mary has to wrap him in cloth that she has brought with her and lay him in a manger that is full of straw for the animals to eat! Our naughty little sheep

tells me that it always comes as a bit of a shock to him, each time he hears that. Baby Jesus, wrapped in white linen and lying in a manger is brought up to our altar.

Then an angel appears to shepherds on the cold dark hillside. That must have been a bit of a shock! She tells them about the wonderful birth of Jesus and urges them to make their way to the stable to see for themselves. It will change their lives! The angel, a shepherd and two sheep arrive on our altar. Then it's the turn of the wise men. They, too, have had a long and difficult journey, following a beautiful star. They knew that it meant that a special king has been born, not in a palace but in a lowly stable. Who would have believed that God, the creator of everything, would come to earth to be born in a stable? So last but not least three kings join the little group on our altar. The children have been very good and helpful. We have sung some of our favourite songs, "Away in a manger", "Little Jesus sweetly sleep", "Jingle bells" and "Twinkle, twinkle little star" The bells have been jingled beautifully, then everybody is really quiet for our prayers. So many things for which to thank God, not least for His love shown to us in the coming of Jesus.

Then it's time to go into the hall for mince pies and shortbread biscuits, yum! Our naughty little sheep is keen to show off his new Santa hat and the glittery dragon wants everyone to see his new scarf. They are both so happy and proud, thanks to Linda and her skill! As we watch everyone having a good time together, they and I want to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone again on the 13th January, when it won't be quite such a New Year!

**God Bless,
Rosemary Austin**





On St Nicholas Day, 6 December, priest Jacqueline Littlewood and Christoph Bull joined the Romani Czech Slovak community on Town Square, Gravesend



HOLY BAPTISM

15th November

Sophia Nora Louise Peterson
Joshua James Higgins

6th December

Jake Robert Wollen

REST IN PEACE

13th October

Jessie-Lee Boswell-Parker

23rd October

Pearl Iris Jarvis

26th October

Marjorie Doreen Watkins

27th October

Veni Hopkins

3rd November

Peter Ernest Fifield

15th November

Leslie Edward Bance

20th November

Lilian Njuguna

27th November

William Marshall

**The crib placed in
front of the altar
at Christmas**



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 second Saturday of each month...
NOTE the next one will be on 9 January at 9.30.**

See you there, **Sue**



**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 David Williams**

COPY FOR THE MAGAZINE

This is your magazine, and every effort is made to include items supplied by you, our readers.

The one thing that would be most helpful, when submitting copy, is that you e-mail this rather than put a typed sheet on the hook in church.

As I am not a touch typist, it takes considerable time to re-type any copy and is open to me making errors. **Send copy to the address on page 2 by 20th of the month, or speak to Mike Cubitt - 07840343831**



Christ Church youth choir, Semiquavers, entertained the parishioners at a Christmas concert in the church above, and below are pictured singing carols to entertain shoppers in New Road Gravesend





Preparation of the
flowers that adorn
the church at
Christmas



A miscellany of pictures from around the organisations associated with Christ Church.

* Right: shows the “head boppers” in Town Square.

Below: Nativity scene made by nursery children at Christ Church



Below: Angela Kirby meets her new seasonal best friend



Below: 11th Milton Brownies display of their “Christmas hat competition”



A selection of pictures taken during the crafts preparation before the Christingle service at Christ Church on Sunday 6 December





**Mustard Seed and
Christ Church over
80s join together for
a pre Christmas party
in the hall**



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 third year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 21 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.



Swans have been supplying top-quality kitchens and bathrooms at best-value prices to customers throughout the south of England for 30 years. We specialise in top-of-the-range German kitchen units and work tops, plus appliances. We will create the kitchen of your dreams, tailored to your personal needs but at superstore prices.

Kitchen Collections

Modern, country or classic...whatever your preference in kitchens you will find the perfect kitchen for your home.

From a small modern galley to a large traditional farm house kitchen, you will find the ideal kitchen for your home in Swan's kitchen collection.

Once you have found the kitchen units for you, why not browse our extensive selection of work tops, sinks and top-brand appliances.

Once you have chosen the elements for your dream kitchen click here to contact Swans Kitchens for one of our designers to prepare a personal quotation.

Email: swans@xln.co.uk



**80 Parrock Road,
Gravesend, Kent
DA12 1QF**

01474 569070



Churches together, Christian Aid Carols, and Christmas tree Festival



Christ Church 200 Club

The 200 Club is a means of raising money for the Christ Church General Fund, which supports the Ministry and Mission of the church and Good Causes as agreed by the PCC, whilst at the same time giving members the opportunity of a small 'flutter' and the chance to win some money.

Membership costs £30 per year. Fifty percent of all monthly donations are given over to the Christ Church General Fund with the remainder being returned to the membership in prize money. The draw is made on the fourth Sunday of every month in the hall after the morning service.

Payment can be made by an annual sum of £30, a quarterly payment of £7.50 or a monthly payment of £2.50, the latter two by bankers order. Cheques should be made payable to Christ Church PCC No 3 account.

Join by contacting John Thrush, in church, and completing an application form. If you are not sure who John is, ask one of the sides people and they will point you in the right direction.

Winning chances are only limited by the amount of numbers you purchase, the more you have the better your chance of winning.

Worthwhile it certainly is, since its inception the 200 Club has donated over £40,000 to Christ Church to support its Ministry and Good Causes.

Are you a member?

Why not think seriously about joining and helping your church

Contact

JOHN THRUSH

200 Club Secretary

Christ Church

Bringing churches to life - an update from Bishop John Inge from November General Synod

"The recent report of the Church Buildings Review Group which I chaired and which was welcomed unanimously by General Synod in November is currently out for consultation. Please read it and respond. The deadline is 29 January 2016. The report provoked a lively debate in Synod and it would be good for very many more people to become involved.

"There are those who maintain that our church buildings are a millstone around our neck and an impediment to mission. We disagree. Though some

churches will need to be closed we believe that the mood music should be much more positive, recognising the potential for the gospel and for the good of society that our churches represent. However, in order for that potential to be realised we believe change is needed.

"The Report includes suggestions that dioceses should be more strategic in their missional approach to church buildings. It also makes specific proposals to streamline the manner in which the national church institutions assist with the stewardship of church buildings.

"More fundamentally, we suggest that a number of churches have become more like museums because of a lack of awareness that both parts of our Lord's summary of the Law have repercussions for churches, as they do for disciples. The first purpose of churches, as with human beings, is to worship God and churches generally do reasonably well on the first Great Commandment."

Bathrooms, wet rooms, cloakrooms, bathrooms to meet special needs.

Swans have been supplying top-quality bathrooms at best-value prices to customers throughout the south of England for 30 years.



Swans
Kitchens, Bathrooms & Bedrooms

Why not visit our showrooms or telephone to arrange a personal visit, to discuss your requirements, in your own home.

Email: swans@xln.co.uk



**80 Parrock Road, Gravesend
Kent DA12 1QF**

01474 569070

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

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 £4.30 (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.

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 13 January.

MRS FINCH - Church Caretaker



Peter Shearan has published a book with the above title about a real-life lady who acted as church caretaker in Christ Church one hundred years ago. Her life began in 1835, when King William IV was on the British throne, and when stage coaches were a common sight passing through Gravesend; through the Great War; and only ended when she died at the age of 85, by which time she had witnessed many of the marvels of today's life (aeroplanes, motor cars and buses, and electric light to name only a few). Peter has woven the tale of what he has found to have been a remarkable woman around all the known facts: through doing so he has come to know her well (although he wishes he had known her personally!). His book is on sale now, price £10.

All proceeds from the sale will be going towards a planned commemoration of WWI in Autumn 2016.

Exciting 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



Youth choir in Gravesend

We meet weekly for Rehearsals

at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.15 pm to 7.30 pm

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




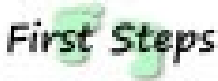

Office hours

Registered Charity no. 1130741

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) | |
| Friday | Scouts; Parent and Toddler | |
| Saturday | Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second) |  |

C of E and Archbishop Justin welcome COP21 agreement

Welcoming the climate deal reached in Paris, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said the global church must be a key partner in tackling climate change.

"I warmly welcome the agreement that almost 200 states came to in Paris on Saturday, setting a clear and ambitious path towards tackling global climate change.

"As faith leaders, we urged those participating in the negotiations to apply the best of our world's intellectual, economic and political resources to reach a legally-binding global agreement to limit the global rise in average temperatures to 2°C. The commitment made by world leaders to hold the

increase in global temperatures to 'well below' this level is welcome and courageous progress.

"Those most affected by climate change are the poor. In our prayers and actions we must demonstrate our love for them through sustainable and generous innovation.

"The success of the negotiations to bring together so many different countries and groups to an agreement is a remarkable achievement.

"One of the Anglican Communion's marks of mission says that we are "to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth". The global church – extraordinarily led on the issue of climate change by Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch – must be a key partner in tackling climate change. As the Body of Christ, his church is called to be incarnational. Each of us has a role to play, if we are to help achieve what has been agreed in Paris."



Soroptimist International of Gravesend & District

Quiz Evening

A Fun Evening on Saturday 9th January 2016

7.00 for 7.30 p.m. Prompt Start.

At Christ Church Hall, Old Road East, Gravesend. DA12 1NR

Proceeds

to support our Link Club

Freetown, Sierra Leone

£5.00 entry per person

Raffle

Teams -
Maximum
6 in each

Bring your
own Snacks
and Drinks

Admission by Ticket only



Soroptimist International Gravesend & District – Annual Quiz – Saturday 9th January 2016

Please let Pamela Debnam know how many Tickets are required (Admission by Ticket only)

Contact Name Tel No.....

Total Number attending

Return to Pamela Debnam, by 2nd January to Rosemount, 22b Old Road East, GRAVESEND Kent, DA12 1NQ

Tel 01474 329342 Fax 01474 354203 Mob 07913 680231 E-mail debnam77@sky.com

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

Sanctuary

Sanctuary is the name given to a project to provide a shelter for the homeless in Gravesend town during the worst of the winter months. It is being run by City Praise Centre and Gravesend

Methodist Church in association with Gravesham Churches Together. For more information please visit our website at:

www.graveshamchurchestogether.org/sanctuary

Gravesend & District Osteoporosis Support Group

The next meeting of the Group is on

Tuesday 5th January 2016

at

Christ Church Hall

Old Road East, Gravesend DA12 1NR

Time: 7.00 p.m.

Entry £2.00

**A TALK BY
A COMMUNITY WARDEN**

**Followed by
A TASTING SESSION OF
HEALTHY FOOD**

**There will be a raffle
Tea/coffee and biscuits**

Everyone Welcome!

**Contact the Chair for
Further Information
01474 564234**



The response has been a real indication that this project is God inspired and He has placed a desire within the heart of His people to fulfil the commission to 'find the lost and feed the hungry'.








If you want to help out but haven't yet completed an application form, then you can do this on-line by going to the website below

http://www.graveshamchurchestogether.org/.../Sanctuary_Enquiry

Gravesend is one of the poorer towns in Kent that has a sizable community of people who are homeless. Many are malnourished and in need of medical help, but are unsure of who to turn to. Much of this goes unseen, but becomes apparent at night as uncovered by members of the Street Pastors and Foodbank teams. Although there are local government and charitable organisations seeking to address this problem, the reality is that some will remain homeless over this winter.



CALENDAR JANUARY 2016

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Sunday  | 31 08.00 Service 10.00 Service | 3 08.00 Service 10.00 Service | 10 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.00 Evensong | 17 08.00 Service 10.00 Service | 24 08.00 Service 10.00 Service |
| Monday  | | 4 08.00 Service BROWNIES | 11 08.00 Service BROWNIES | 18 08.00 Service BROWNIES | 25 08.00 Service BROWNIES |
| Tuesday  | | 5 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers | 12 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers | 19 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers | 26 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers |
| Wednesday  | | 6 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer 19.30 Mother's Union | 13 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 17.15 Evening Prayer | 20 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer | 27 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer |
| Thursday  | | 7 07.00 Service 14.00 Pilgrim course BROWNIES Choir practice 19.30 Pilgrim course | 14 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice | 21 07.00 Service 14.00 Pilgrim course 15.00 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir practice 19.30 Pilgrim course | 28 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice |
| Friday  | 1 10.00 New Year's Day Holy Communion | 8 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS | 15 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS | 22 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS | 29 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS |
| Saturday  | 2 NO SERVICES | 9 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party | 16 08.00 Service | 23 08.00 Service | 30 08.00 Service |

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