

CHRIST CHURCH MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE February 2016

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Deadline for the magazine is middle of the
month prior to publication. Next month
Wednesday 17 February for March.

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 children's parties

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Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
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
Christ Church Milton-Next-Gr	FEBRUARY 2016	

Life in the Psalms: A Lent Course

By reflecting on the poetry of the psalms, we will explore creative ways to express our faith, as we journey through Lent together.

This year's Lent course will be shared with other churches of the East Gravesend Cluster... Sessions are on Wednesday – in the mornings at 11am at St George's church, Gravesend, followed by an optional soup lunch at 12.

In the evenings at 7.30pm

17 Feb at Christ Church – Pilgrimage

24 Feb at Holy Family Church, Palmer Avenue – **Prayer**

2 March at St Mary's Church, Wrotham Road – Wonder

9 March at St Aidan's Church, St Aidan's Way – **The Way**

16 March at Christ Church – Hope

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.



CHRIST CHURCH AND THE GREAT WAR

There were three reasons for me writing this piece. The first was a radio broadcast; the second a centenary of a WWI action; and the third will be happening this Autumn. All have echoes in Christ Church history, in one way or another.

I'll take them one by one. The radio broadcast was the Sunday Service on Sunday morning 27th December which concerned itself with the establishment of an organisation known as Talbot House. TocH as it became to be known from its Army parlance during WWI, was a soldiers' rest and recreation centre founded by Rev Philip (Tubby) Clayton in Poperinghe, Belgium, in December 1915. The organisation which grew from that still exists today, although in greatly changed form: now dedicated to 'understanding and reconciliation'. After WWII a new Christ Church vicar, Dudley Benbow, who had served as a chaplain in that conflict, became padre of the Gravesend branch. and small а cross remembering that stands in the Warriors' Chapel.

This turn of the year is also the centenary of the withdrawal from the Dardenelles - known usually as Gallipoli - that dreadfully botched campaign which took place in a part of the world known by few people in Britain. Thousands of men, British. Australian and New Zealand forces among them, perished in the most horrific circumstances: many from battle, far too many from disease. Among them, dying on Christmas Eve 1915 during the awful weather of that winter, was a 19-year old John Betts. His mother lived in Clarence Street, a road now under the Parrock Street car park. I mention him in my book 'Mrs Finch: Church Caretaker'.

Marian had an uncle who was a casualty at Gallipoli. Her Uncle Will Barnes was serving in the

Royal Army Medical Corps. He had been wounded and was being evacuated by small boat to a hospital ship some distance of shore and as a result of exposure spent the rest of life - over thirty years - in a wheelchair. His photograph was taken in March 1949, proudly wearing his medals, during a Royal Visit to Preston of the then Princess Elizabeth (now HM the Queen).

The third event will take place next Autumn. In 1920 a church meeting accepted a proposal that that there should be some form of commemoration consisting 'of a panel listing those men of the parish who have made the supreme sacrifice and the Memorial in the church should take the form of a chapel in the East End of the church where the present small gallery is behind the Choir.' The Warriors' Chapel was duly erected and dedicated in 1922. The panel had a short life, for thirteen years later the church was moved from Parrock Road, where it had stood for over eighty years, and re-erected in Old Road East. During that move the panel was badly damaged, and not replaced., although details of the names remained in the church archives. In Autumn 2016 there will be a rededication service, at present being planned, for a replacement panel.



FIGET STEPS

13TH JANUARY 2016

JESUS' BAPTISM

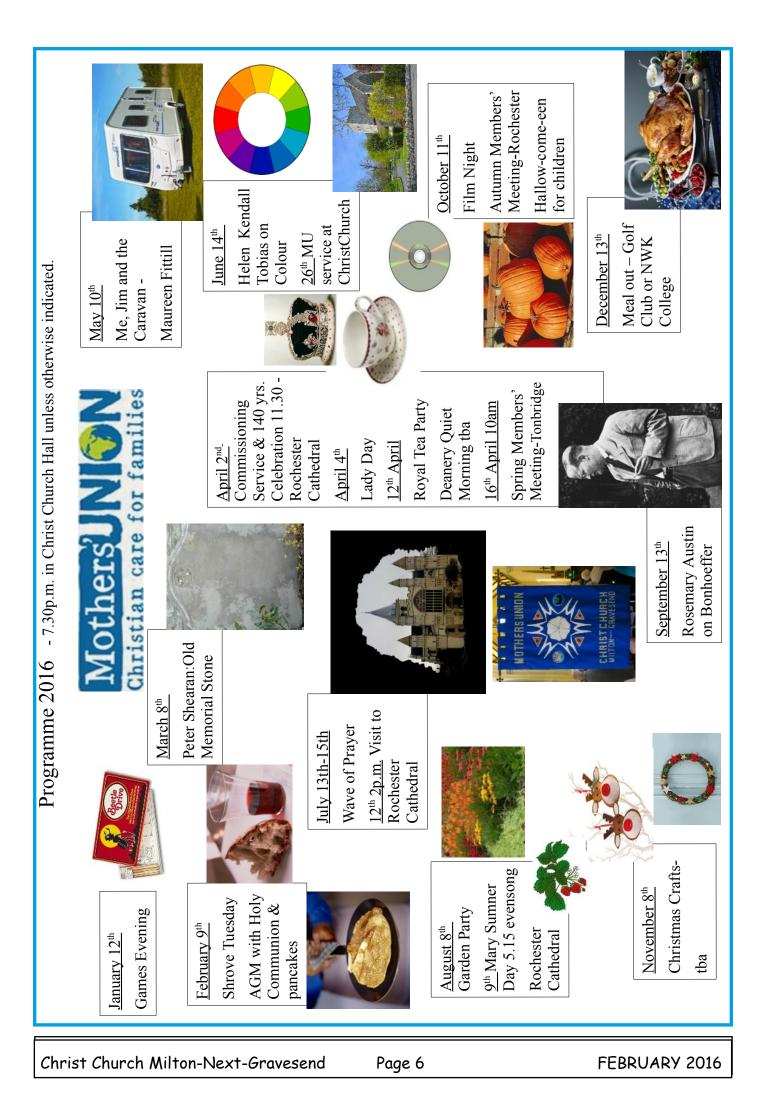
It may be 13th January but it's lucky for us because today is our First Steps service. Our naughty little sheep is very happy and excited, especially as it is a lovely sunny, chilly winter's day. When everyone is ready, he, his many friends and I make our way up to church. Once in they all make themselves comfortable as I get bits ready for our service. Jan and Linda soon arrive to help, too. Then we open the doors and wait for our First Steps friends to arrive. First in is C T and his little boy Callum. It's their first visit and we are all really pleased to see them. But they aren't on their own for very long and soon we have our usual lovely noisy crowd, testing out the jingle bells and making sure that they still work.

Our theme today is Jesus' Baptism and we all go to the back of the church to see our lovely font. We hear that Jesus wasn't baptised in a font like ours but in the River Jordan and what's more he wasn't a baby but a grown up man. John the Baptist, who baptised him, made him go right under the water so that he got very wet, indeed! I can see that our naughty little sheep and his friends are all very surprised at that. And when Jesus came up out of the water the heavens opened above his head and God's voice was heard, saying that Jesus was His beloved Son and He was very pleased with him. The Holy Spirit hovered over Jesus' head in the form of a beautiful white dove. And everyone has a chance to look up under the beautiful painted hood of our font to see the picture of a white dove against a clear blue sky. Isn't that wonderful?

Then everyone goes back to their seats and our naughty little sheep and the glittery dragon climb carefully up onto our little altar. We light the candles and with jingle bells at the ready we sing some of our favourite songs about the people we love; about Jesus our friend; about his love for us and the wonder of God's love, too. There is some excellent singing and some lovely bell jingling. Our naughty little sheep and his friends are very pleased to see that Callum seems to be enjoying his visit to First Steps and they hope that he and his dad will come and join us again. We thank God for coming alongside us in Jesus and we remember how special his baptism was for him. It was the beginning of his ministry. Baptism is very special for us too, because it is when we begin our journey of faith, as part of Jesus' family and the Holy Spirit goes with us, too. Everybody is very good and quiet for our prayers and then our service is over and it is time to make our way into the hall for a cuppa, a munch and time to chat and play. Our naughty little sheep and his friends rush out to get to the front of the gueue. They've all been singing and jiggling in time to the music and they are very much in need of refreshment, or so they

tell me! They do so love being part of it all and seeing everyone having a good time together. They hope that everyone will join us again for our next First Steps service on 10th February. It will be Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent as we begin to prepare for Easter. Doesn't the time just fly?

God Bless, Rosemary Austin

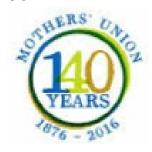


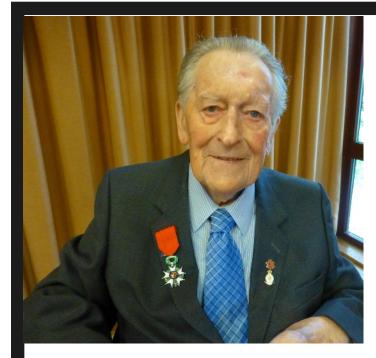


"We have grown- We have moved" Christ Church Mothers' Union has had to change time and venue of meetings as our membership has increased and meeting in members houses has become impractical. We now meet on the SECOND TUESDAY of the month in the CHURCH HALL. We have just started our new Programme for 2016 which contains a mixture of fun, social and serious events. Mothers' Union (MU) for short is worldwide organisation open а to

everyone (male and female) who believes in the importance of Christian family life-is this you? Pick up a copy of our 2016 programme from the MU table at the back of the church, talk to a Mothers' Union member- there are a lot of us around or just simply come along to one of our meetings and give us a try. We would be delighted to see you.

This year's programme is printed on the page opposite





Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur

It is with sadness that we inform our congregation of the death of our long time church member who passed away on Tuesday 19 January. Cremation will take place at Medway Crematorium at 11.00 on Thursday 11 February followed by a service of Thanksgiving at 12.15 at Christ Church

Stan Bond proudly wearing the insignia of *Chavelier de la Legion d'honneur*

Stanley Bond was a Lance Corporal with the Royal Engineers and was with 105 Corp Field Park Company during the Normandy Campaign.

Link to the online obituary is: https://www.funeralzone.co.uk/obituaries/14130

The link to Stan's wartime memories films is: http://legasee.org.uk/thearchive/stanley-bond/

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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 13 February 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 Milton-Next-Gravesend

FROM RECENT EDITION OF "IN REVIEW"

Church Urban Fund fasting for Lent

Congregations are being invited to take part in a new Church Urban Fund campaign encouraging people to take up a fasting challenge this Lent in solidarity with people who struggle to put food on the table.

The CUF Give it Up for Lent campaign is inviting congregations and individuals to take part in some form of fasting during the Lenten season including giving up a meal on Fridays or hosting a frugal lunch.

Youth groups are also being encouraged to consider the possibility of doing a 24-hour fast from breakfast on a Saturday and ending with a shared breakfast on Sunday morning before a main morning service in church.

The campaign aims to draw inspiration from the ancient Christian tradition of fasting during Lent with the money saved or raised donated to CUF's work tackling poverty and social exclusion in England.

The campaign by CUF, the Church of England's poverty charity, comes after joint research was published last year showing that two thirds, or 66%, of Church of England churches are involved in running food banks.

Support from churches includes collecting food, providing volunteers and offering premises as well as helping to manage the food banks, according to the joint study from the Church of England and CUF.

The cross-party Feeding Britain inquiry, co-chaired by the Bishop of Truro Tim Thornton, and updated in December has shown that the number of people relying on food parcels remains at a level previously unseen since the Second World War.

17% of Anglican churches are also involved in helping support the growth of credit unions, in

many instances through the Church Credit Champions Network.

Paul Hackwood, executive chair of CUF, said:

"The Give it Up for Lent campaign is firmly rooted in the Christian tradition of prayer and fasting during the Lenten season as a way of drawing closer to God and preparing for Easter.

"We hope that congregations will use this opportunity to show solidarity with the poorest and most marginalised as well as raise money for those who struggle to put food on the table."

Publication of pilot audits in safeguarding arrangements

The outcomes of four pilot independent audits into safeguarding arrangements in the Church of England have been published today.

The dioceses of Blackburn, Durham, Portsmouth and Salisbury all volunteered to be part of the House of Bishops commissioned project to take a look at current safeguarding practice. The audits will now be rolled out across all other Church of England dioceses during 2016/17.

The independent audits were carried out by The Social Care Institute for Excellence, SCIE, a charity and leading improvement support agency specialising in safeguarding. SCIE has pioneered a particular collaborative approach to conducting case reviews and audits in child and adult safeguarding called Learning Together focusing on the reasons why things go well, the cause of any problems and solutions.

The audit process in each diocese involved examination of safeguarding leadership arrangements, local policies and practice guidance, the quality of case work, recruitment and training. The auditors also looked at the progress being made in reaching nationally agreed standards informed by central House of Bishops approved policies.

For more information, visit bit.ly/SafeguardingPilot



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FEBRUARY 2016



22nd January the Mayor of Gravesham Councillor Michael Wenban and others including the children of Chantry School who laid floral tributes, gather at the Fort Gardens for the annual commemoration of General Gordon.





Why people go to church

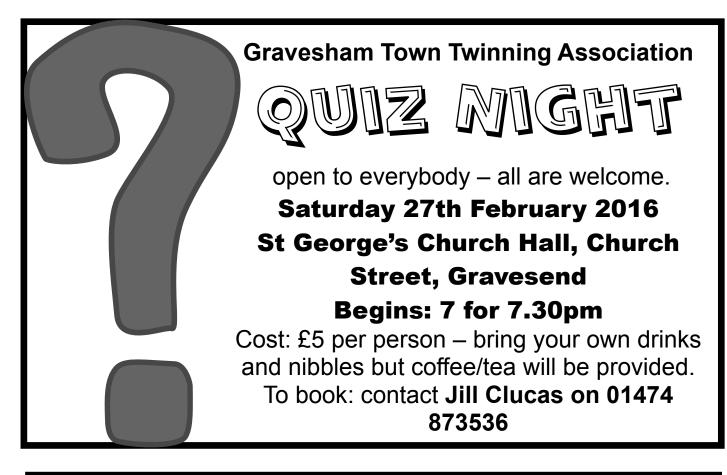
The answer has always been complex, as the following rhyme, found in an old Prayer book, and dated 1870 shows:

Some go to church just for a walk; Some go to laugh, some to talk; Some go there for speculation; Some go there for observation; Some go there to meet a friend; Some the tedious hours to spend; Some to learn the Parson's name Some go there to wound his fame; Some go there to meet a lover; Some new fashions to discover; Some go there to doze and nod; But few go there to worship God

More over, we notice that the fashionable answer to this question changes with the generations

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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 Milton-Next-Gravesend



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 18 February.** You are so welcome.

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



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from recent edition of "IN REVIEW"

The Joy of the Gospel

New Lent study guide now available for churches and groups

Explained as a six-week study in sharing faith and written by Paula Gooder, this course is based on Pope Francis' much acclaimed reflections on mission and evangelism, Evangelii Gaudium, widely recognised as being full of realistic wisdom and infectious enthusiasm for reaching out to others.

The Joy of the Gospel will help parishes and Lent groups rediscover the joy of encountering Jesus and the transformation that occurs when his good news is communicated in the world today.

Each session includes prayer, a guided refletion on a Bible passage, and an opportunity to explore a key theme of sharing faith, such as working together, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the social justice dimension.

Paula Gooder is an internationally known writer, speaker, educator and broadcaster and is closely involved with Anglican - Roman Catholic relations at the international level.

You can order the study guide online at bit.ly/JoyGospel

Reflections for Lent Podcast & Book available

Reflections for Lent is designed to enhance your spiritual journey through the forty days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (10 February - 26 March 2016).

Covering Monday to Saturday each week, it offers reflections on readings from the Common Worship Lectionary, written by some of today's leading spiritual and theological writers. It also features a simple form of morning and night prayer and a guide to keeping a good Lent.

Reflections for Lent is also available to download as an app on iOS and Android devices.

This year, Reflections for Lent is accompanied by free audio recordings of the reflections, read by Martyn Percy.

Find out more as well as how to purchase by visiting bit.ly/2016Lent

Churches urged to work with local councils in celebration planning HMQ90

Churches have been encouraged to partner with their local council as they plan festivals, special services or exhibitions over the weekend of 11th and 12th June as part of the national celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday.

Sir Tony Baldry, Chair of the Church Buildings Council said, 'The Church of England is a presence in every community, Her Majesty is the head of our Church and so it makes perfect sense that celebrations in the local church should be at the heart of wider community plans. This is a great opportunity for partnership between church and local government to pool resources and ideas to create really special events that will bring people of all faiths and none together to give thanks for the decades of service she has given us and to celebrate this special birthday.'

Councils have begun to advertise community celebrations on their websites and some have indicated that road closures will be possible for residents planning street parties.

Church of England schools are holding a competition to design a logo that churches will be able to use for their events which will be available to download from the Church Care website.

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from recent edition of "IN REVIEW"

Baptism Matters conferences for churches

Simple changes that can help families on their lifelong journey of faith when they bring a child to be baptised are to be discussed at a series of conferences for churches launched by the Archbishops' Council.

Clergy, licensed lay ministers and all those involved in family ministry are invited to consider taking part in one of five Baptism Matters conferences on what families expect when a child is baptised.

Conference participants will be able to discuss new resources that have been created following major research into parents' motivations, expectations and experiences when they bring a child for baptism and the experience of churches. Canon Sandra Millar, Archbishops' Council Head of Projects and Development, said: "More than two thousand families a week on average bring their child for baptism in the Church of England. "These conferences are a key opportunity for clergy, lay ministers and anyone in family ministry to examine new research and fresh insights into the motivations and hopes of these families and how we might we might help them further on their journey to discover the grace and fullness of God's love."

The day costs £50 plus VAT and for every two places booked a third place is free.

To see a list of the conferences and locations and to book a place see www.baptismmatters.org

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FEBRUARY 2016

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.

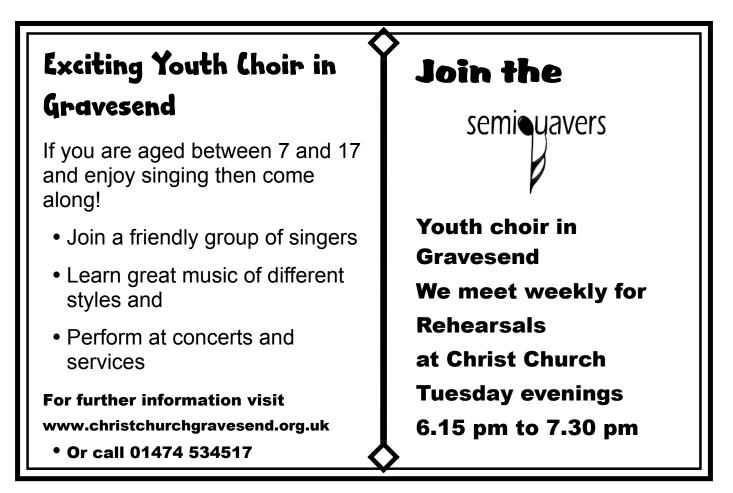
First steps FIRS	ST STEP	S First Steps			
Is a service especially designed for all children in the family are welco		e-school children, although			
We meet in the church at 1.45 pm for a short service and then to enj		<u> </u>			
We are finished in plenty of time f school.	for parents to me	et their other children from			
Why not come along with your ch	ildren, you will be	e very welcome.			
Next date is Wednesday 10 February.					
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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.



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

6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Saturday	Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)				
Friday	Scouts; Parent and Toddler				
	3.00 p.m. Mustard Seed (every third)				
Thursday	Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice:				
_ <u>_</u> .	Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday)				
First Steps	First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm				
Wednesday	Guides Girlguiding UK girls in the lead				
Tuesday	Mothers Union (2 nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers				
Monday	Music Group; Brownies				
Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2 ¹ / ₂ upwards)				
	There are a white vallely of clubs for you				

CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday		7 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	14 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.00 Evensong	21 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	28 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	
Monday	1 08.00 Service BROWNIES	8 08.00 Service BROWNIES	15 08.00 Service BROWNIES	22 08.00 Service BROWNIES	29 08.00 Service BROWNIES	
Tuesday	2 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers	9 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers 19.30 Mother's Union in hall	16 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers	23 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers		
Wednesday	3 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	10 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 17.15 Evening Prayer 19.30 Service for ASH WEDNESDAY	17 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	24 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer		
Thursday	4 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice 14.00 /19.30 Pilgrim course	11 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	18 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	25 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir practice		
Friday	5 10.00 New Year's Day Holy Communion	12 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	19 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	26 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS		
Saturday	6 08.00 Service	13 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party 10.00 Marriage preparation	20 08.00 Service	27 08.00 Service	08.00 Service	
Christ Church	Christ Church Milton-Next-Gravesend Page 19 FEBRUARY 2016					

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT CHRIST CHURCH

Rest of the second seco