



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE
April 2016

Donation or **40p**

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code to go to
our web site



Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday 17 April for May.

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



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.

COFFEE ROTA 2016

3 Apr	Tim Mcarther, Bianca Mcarther, David/ Martin
10 Apr	Sarah Bush, Kay Page, Susan Wilkins
17 Apr	Jenny Shoesmith, Barbara Bunyan, Anne Thrush
24 Apr	Jill, Annie, Rosemary
1 May	Lucy Hornby, Maxine, Marg Elali



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



Archbishop speaks to Mary Berry about the meaning of Easter

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, was featured on Mary Berry's Easter Feast on BBC 2. Mrs Berry, who is one of the judge's on the BBC's The Great British Bake Off, presented him with a traditional Easter Simnel cake she had prepared. The Archbishop described the cake as "absolutely wonderful"

Over tea and cake in his study, the Archbishop told Mrs Berry that Easter was an opportunity to

"celebrate life and celebrate hope" as well as to remember loved ones who had passed away. Archbishop Justin said: "There's a wonderful moment at the end of Evensong on Easter Sunday afternoon, and I go home and we sit down and we have some cake and some tea with the family; and it's relishing the human contact, the love for one another, the security in one another that is the gift of family. And I think that's one of my rejoicing moments.

"It is a great moment of being together, and, of course, it's the oldest celebration - the first thing that the earliest church did was to celebrate the conquest of death."

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 9th April at 9.30.

See you there, **Sue**

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**

FIRST STEPS

9/3/16

JESUS WALKS ON THE WATER

Rain, rain, rain! Wind and rain all night and our naughty little sheep is feeling a bit depressed. This isn't helped by the fact that quite a few of his friends have caught some nasty kind of tummy bug and they're feeling very sorry for themselves. Understandably! It means that they won't be joining us for our First Steps service today, and they'll have to stay indoors, warm and dry! Darn, they say! The rain has eased of as our naughty little sheep, the remainder of his friends and I walk up to church in the early afternoon. This lull may not last. They makes themselves comfortable while Jan, Linda and I get everything sorted out, ready for our service and it is soon time to open the doors. Will anyone brave the weather and join us? Yes they do! First in today is Grandma Pauline and granddaughter Isabella, fast asleep in her buggy. It is their first visit to First Steps and we're very pleased to see them. And on such a dismal day, too! Others follow and soon we have a lovely lively bunch. Today we are thinking about Jesus walking of the water, sort of appropriate I think! So when everyone is sitting comfortably our candles are lit and we begin our service.

We hear how Jesus had been very busy talking to people and healing those who are sick and now he's feeling very tired. He sends his disciples ahead of him, across the lake in a boat, intending to catch up with them later. He just wants to be on his own with God for a bit. On the lakeshore he can see the disciples' boat sailing away into the distance when suddenly the wind begins to get up. It looks as if the disciples are having trouble controlling the boat and there is a possibility that it might sink. So Jesus walks across the water towards them.

The disciples see a figure coming towards them, walking on the water but they don't realise that it's Jesus. They're really scared because they think it's a ghost! Everyone is very quiet for this bit of the story because they wonder what is going to happen next. Our naughty little sheep tells me that he feels a bit scared himself, just like the disciples. But Jesus tells the disciples, "Take heart, it is I, do not be afraid" and he gets into the boat with them. Then the wind stops blowing and the lake becomes calm again. I bet those disciples are surprised and relieved!

Wow, that's a great story, isn't it? Yet another one of Jesus' miracles. We sing some of our favourite songs; about the beauty of the seasons ; about frogs; about God who made our wonderful world and last but not least, we sing about Jesus' great love for us. We thank God for the many gifts that He gives to us each day, not least this chance to be together, jingling bells, singing and just having a good time.

When we have been very quiet for our prayers and our candles have been blown out, our service is over and it's time to go into the hall for a cuppa, a biscuit and some chatty play time. Our naughty little sheep and his friends are all out there getting drinks and biscuits and just enjoying watching the children play. It is so lovely to see them all growing and changing. Both dear little Amber and dear little Matthew are walking, now. What clever children! Wait until all those poorly animals hear what they've missed! We do hope that they will be well enough to join everyone for our next First Steps service on the 13th April. It will be lucky for us, I'm sure. Wishing you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

**God Bless,
Rosemary Austin**





**Christ Church Crescent the site of the old church before
it was moved to where it is today**

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.



MOTHERING SUNDAY

Our pictures show flowers ready for distribution for the mums at church on March 6 and one young member of the congregation ready to hand them out to the children. Also members of the "Thrush family" together in church



Extraordinary
musical
encounters

>
SOUND **UK**

'uproariously
rousing and
darkly disturbing'
— The Guardian

CHASING THE WHALE

**KINGS OF THE SOUTH SEAS
WITH TIM ERIKSEN
& PHILIP HOARE**

UK TOUR: 1 – 6 APRIL 2016

Don't miss your opportunity to be there

Tuesday 5 April at 20.00

St ANDREWS ART CENTRE

Gravesend

Tickets £10

A WHALER'S LIFE FROM THE ERA OF MOBY
DICK BROUGHT TO LIFE THROUGH MUSIC,
NARRATION AND FILM.

Christchurch celebrating children's literature in

The Big Summer Fair on Saturday 18th June 2015 at 2.30p.m..

We are collecting these items for the fair on the following Sundays:

Date to be brought to church

8 MAY

Items being collected

All children's books but especially by Beatrix Potter, AA Milne & Roald Dahl

(Peter Rabbit etc.; Winnie the Pooh; The BFG etc.)

15 MAY

Pre-loved and collectables (was nearly new!) and children's books

22 MAY

Children's games & toys & all jigsaw puzzles and children's books

29 MAY

White elephant & entertainment(CD's, DVD's, records) NOT VIDEO's NO ELECTRICAL ITEMS

5 JUNE

Wrapped (in date) chocolates for Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

Tombola and children's books

12 JUNE
anything

Books for adults and Bottles of for bottle stall

18 JUNE (on the day)

Cakes & plants (surplus seedlings etc.)& donations of fruit and vegetables for Mr McGregor's Garden!



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

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

CHRIST CHURCH MOTHERS' UNION



8TH MARCH 2016

Seventeen members of our branch met in the Church Hall this evening to hear Peter Shearan give a talk. Our meeting began with prayers led by Sheila Brown and she gave thanks for the continuing recovery of Betty Martin, a much loved and valued member, following a successful operation on her hip. We heard that a raffle on Mothering Sunday had raised £96 for Mothers' Union good causes. The prizes were a Simnel cake, made for us by David Williams and won by Maxine Springett and a lovely basket of flowers won by Priest Jacqueline. Maxine very generously donated her newly won Simnel cake to be shared out at coffee time after the service and very delicious it was, too, if you were quick enough to get a sample! Thanks for that, Maxine!

Following the publication of his book, "Mrs Finch, Church Caretaker" Peter had come along to tell us a bit about his research into a memorial plaque bearing the names of some of the men in Christ Church parish that had lost their lives in the Great War. The plaque which was unveiled in 1922, stood in the new Warriors' Chapel in the old Christ Church. Sadly this plaque was lost when the church moved in the 1930s only to be found in the last few years, buried in our Garden of Remembrance.

During Peter's research he discovered quite a bit about Mrs Finch, who was the

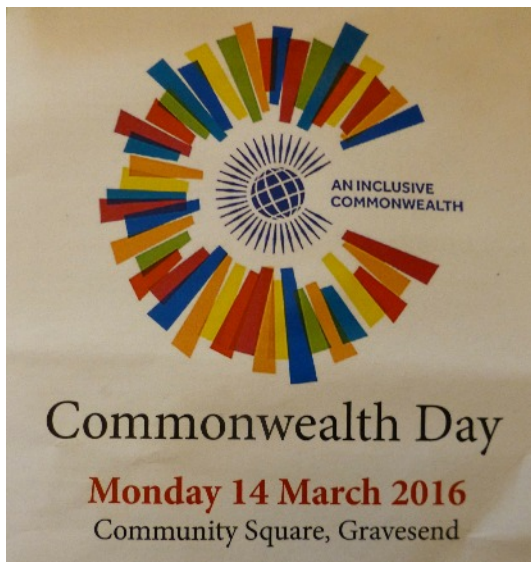
caretaker for the old Christ Church. She had been given the task of overseeing the collection of the names that would eventually be engraved onto the plaque. She knew many of the families who had been bereaved and indeed her eldest grandchild, Felix Bush who died in Sierra Leone in December 1916, is named on the plaque.

As you may gather from this little snippet, Peter's talk was very interesting and for those of us who are interested in local history, his little book is a must. All proceeds are going towards the restoration of the memorial plaque which will eventually be put into the Warriors' Chapel in our



church, the new Christ Church, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Great War.

Our meeting finished with refreshments, including "posh" biscuits, which are always a treat, especially in Lent! Naughty but nice! We hope that members and friends will be able to join us for our evening "tea party" on the 12th April at 7.30pm in the Church Hall when we will be celebrating the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen, who is our Patron.



Children from local schools, members of the public, the British Red Cross, the Royal Engineers Association, the Merchant Nay Association and members of Gravesham Council joined the Mayor



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

£2.00 per family

**In the hall at Christ Church,
Echo Square, Gravesend**

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk



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 April**. 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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01474 569070

Celebrating a special relationship on Godparents’ Sunday, May 1st

Resources including liturgy and ideas for parish activities are now available from www.churchsupporthub.org to help celebrate Godparents’ Sunday on 1st May. This dedicated day is a response to research commissioned by the Archbishops’ Council which shows the importance of godparents to families bringing their children for baptism.

In Review asked Revd Kate Bottley, who has five godchildren, why the relationship is important: ‘My Godchildren are all so wonderfully different and I get to journey with them in faith for the rest of their lives. My husband’s Godmother did the reading at our wedding and my own Godmother never forgets my kids’ birthdays, she calls them her ‘Great Godchildren’. My kids’ Godparents pray regularly for them and when something big is happening in their lives, like exams, I always make sure to let them know so they can pray extra hard.’

Bishops have also shared their Godparent stories with In Review. The Bishop of Huntingdon, David Thomson said of his Godparents: “I was blessed with three very holy godparents – a monk,

a missionary and a godmother who eventually entered a religious community too. Their prayers must have been powerful to enable a crumbly cookie like me to become a bishop! They continue to be an inspiration: my godmother in her 80s rebuilt a hospital in Africa!’

The Bishop of Dudley, Graham Usher said: “My Godmother has always seemed delightfully unconventional and refreshingly different. She’s been in the background throughout my life and has been really committed to coming to every major life event. She says it was a bit more than she agreed to, having a Godson who has become a priest and a bishop!”

The Godparents’ Sunday service liturgy can be used for a Eucharist, but could also be adapted for a Service of the Word and includes the recommended lectionary readings and authorized Collect.

The Church Support Hub website has lots of ideas from candle lighting, creating a memory box, highlighting special godparent relationships for parish magazines and social media or hosting a tea party.

Full details of resources available can be found at:

www.churchsupporthub.org/godparentsunday





Easter bonnets made by Brownies of 11th Milton (Christ Church)

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.



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



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.

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

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 APRIL.

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

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 Mothers Union (2nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

Wednesday Guides

First Steps

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)



CALENDAR APRIL 2016

Sunday 		3 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	10 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	17 08.00 Service 10.00 Service ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING	24 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday 		4 08.00 Service	11 08.00 Service BROWNIES	18 08.00 Service BROWNIES	25 08.00 Service BROWNIES
Tuesday 		5 07.00 Service 18.30 Semiquavers 19.30 Mother's Union in hall	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	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 Choir practice	14 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	21 07.00 Service BROWNIES 15.00 Mustard Seed Choir practice	28 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice
Friday 	1 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	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 08.00 Service	9 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party	16 08.00 Service	23 08.00 Service	30 08.00 Service

Quiz Night

Saturday 16th April

7.30 p.m.

at St Georges Church Hall
Church Street, Gravesend

Teams of 6

£5.00 per head

Raffle

Bring your own drink and nibbles

Book with Sheilah: (01474) 534901

kaysgardencampsite@hotmail.co.uk

Proceeds to the upgrade fund for Kay's Garden Campsite
and St Georges Church



St George's ^{Gravesend}

Registered charity number 303396

Registered charity number 1132757