



CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND



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PARISH MAGAZINE APRIL 2018

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50p

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday 22 APRIL
Copy: email to:-
ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

**Christ Church Hall is available for hire
Contact Maxine Springett, contact numbers are 01474 746428 or 07511962277.
Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and children's parties**

Front cover picture: Christ Church in the sun David Lewis copyright acknowledged

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Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| Vicar | | |
| 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 | Martin Sewell | 745443 |
| Webmaster | Tim McArthur | |

Thank you to everyone who turned up on 10th March to help with preparing 150 bunches of daffodils to be given out at the Mothering Sunday services on 11th March



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 14 APRIL at 9.30.**

See you there, JAN

On Tuesday 13 March we met in the hall as usual, however we had a change as Sheila started with notices while we had tea, coffee and hot cross buns or biscuits. After this we went to the church and Sue took us around the Easter Experience displays. At each station we listened to the bible story read by different members, we sang hymns at some and ended at the altar for the Resurrection station afterwards we received an Easter Egg. Some of us have been working with the visiting children and it was interesting to have an adult conversation about the different displays.

The raffle for the simnel cake was drawn at the Mothering Sunday service and the

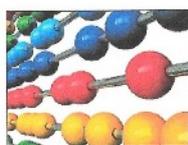
proceeds (over £100) donated to Mother's Union funds.

Our next meeting will be on 10 April and will be a talk on Passionate about Parenting by one of our members, Brigitta Donald.



**Do you run a local business?
Have you thought of advertising
in this monthly magazine?**

If you would like details of costs and how you could contribute to Christ Church through advertising please contact **07840343831** or email **ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk**



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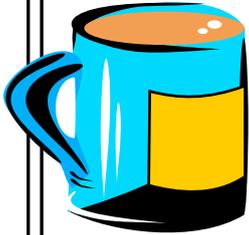


GC-LIFT 15867

COFFEE ROTA 2018

1 Apr Annie - Jill - Sally
8 Apr Jan - Sue - Kay
15 Apr Annie - Jill - Vena
22 Apr Annie - Jill - Angela
29 Apr Annie - Jill - Jenny

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



COPY FOR MAY 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 Sunday 22 MAY, at the very latest, or speak to
Mike Cubitt - 07840343831**

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, 2014 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.

**FIRST STEPS
14TH MARCH 2018
MOTHERING SUNDAY
(MOTHERS' DAY)**

My goodness, don't the weeks fly by? Once again our naughty little sheep is gazing out of the window because it will be our First Steps service this afternoon and he is checking on the weather. Oh he is a worrier, even if he insists that he isn't! Hooray, the sun is shining and it is beginning to look quite spring like. When he, his friends and I walk up to church later the sun is still shining and though the breeze is a bit chilly, it is lovely to see the spring flowers. Everything looks so hopeful and promising.

Into church and as usual I begin to get things ready while our naughty little sheep and his friends make themselves comfortable in their usual places, keeping well out of my way! Linda and Jan arrive, too, and quickly get things ready in the hall. Soon it's time to open the church doors. First in today is Mum Ruth with little boys Ethan and Louis. We are really pleased to see them. Then others begin to arrive and the children find jingle bells and other noisy things to play. When everybody is ready we light our candles and begin our service.

Today we are thinking about Mothering Sunday or Mothers' Day as it is often known. It gives us a chance to think of our Mums because we have all got a Mum haven't we? Jesus had a very special Mum, too, didn't he? His mother was Mary. Our naughty little sheep has got very many happy memories of his Mum, he tells me, right from when he was a little lamb. All of his friends remember their Mums, too and all the things that they did for them when they were growing up. Some of our Mums had special treats for Mothers' Day like breakfast in bed, a pretty card, flowers and chocolates. It is lovely to have the chance to

say "Thank you" to our Mums, for all that they do for us, isn't it?

We sing about Mother Hen and her baby chick, and we sing about the people that we love. We say "Thank you" to God for giving us people to love, who love us, too. Love is such a precious gift and all love comes from God and He loves us so very much, too.

On Mothering Sunday people sometimes make a Simnel Cake, which is a fruit cake with a flat piece of marzipan on top and eleven little balls of marzipan to remind us of Jesus' disciples. Eleven because Judas is left out for obvious reasons! We sometimes have Simnel Cake at Easter, too. Our naughty little sheep and his friends think that it sounds delicious and try to persuade me to make one. Watch this space! We sing "I like eating" remembering yummy cake and we thank God for yummy food, for fun and for love. The children have had a lovely time playing their jingly bells and Jack has had a good time banging on his tambourine. He is such a musical boy! Everyone is very good and quiet as we say our prayers including the one that Jesus taught us. Then it is time to blow out our candles and go into the hall for refreshments, chat and play. This time our naughty little sheep and his friends are at the front of the queue. No meditating this week! Then they find a comfortable spot to sit and watch the children play and the Mums chat. It is their favourite thing!

As always we have had a lovely time together. We hope that everyone will join us again for our next First Steps service on 11th April. We wish everyone has a very happy Easter and we wish Sue our Vicar every blessing as she leaves us to join another parish. We will certainly miss her!

**God Bless
Rosemary Austin**

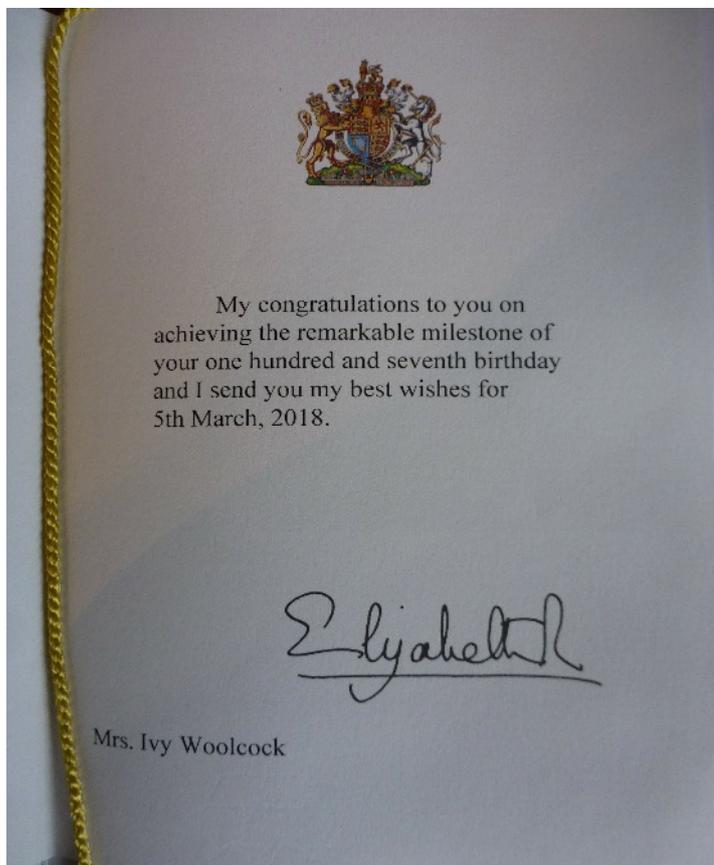


OLDEST PERSON IN BOROUGH?



Congratulations to Ivy Woolcock who celebrated her 107th birthday on 5th March. Ivy's two daughters and other members of her family arrived at Orchard c during the morning to spend the day with Ivy.

Ivy had many visitors during the day including Deputy Lieutenant Mrs RoSemary Dymond, The Mayor of Gravesham Councillor Harold Craske and Mayoress Veronica Craske and many of her friends from Christ Church were Ivy has worshipped for many years. It's thought that Ivy is the oldest person living in the Borough of Gravesham..



Revision of Electoral Roll is your name and details on the list?

The revision of the Electoral Roll will begin on Sunday 25th March. The Electoral Roll will be on a table at the back of the church. If your name is already on the Roll, you do not have to do anything. If your name is not on the Roll and you wish it to be added so that you can enjoy all the fruits



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

of membership, please sign an application form and hand it to a Churchwarden or me. Michael Charles (Electoral Roll Officer)

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Do you or a member of your family have any interesting stories from World War 1

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 two years please let Sue Brewer or Mike Cubitt know.

We are hoping to get enough copy to enable a different story to be produced in the magazine during the four years anniversary period.

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



Pre-school first term report

We've had a busy term at Christ Church Pre-School. We began with celebrating Chinese New Year tasting prawn crackers, using chopsticks to pick up cooked noodles and writing Chinese letters.

Our mummies have been our focus, creating a poem and a card for them. Talking about all the lovely things they do for us, reading us stories and cooking us pizza.

The Pre-School stayed open until the Thursday of snow week. We had fun playing on sledges and attempting to make a snowman. At snack time we had hot chocolate to warm us up.

We'll finish our term visiting Forest School where we climb trees, look for signs of

Spring and collect leaves and stones. Our Ranger will make a fire so we can have hot chocolate to drink.

We'll finish the term celebrating Easter, eating hot cross buns and if the Easter Bunny visits go on an egg hunt.

Happy Easter from all at Christ Church Pre-School

BIBLE NOTES

As well as the "New Daylight" booklet of Bible notes prepared by the Bible Reading Fellowship, there is also a booklet entitled "Bible reflections for older people". This also comes out every four months and is priced at £4.99. This booklet is written by older people for older people, the reflections are designed to bring hope, assurance and sustenance, reminding the reader of the presence and love of God. Each issue contains 40 Bible reflections and prayer suggestions to use and revisit as often as needed.

If you would be interested in seeing a copy of this booklet please have a word with Julie Hill.

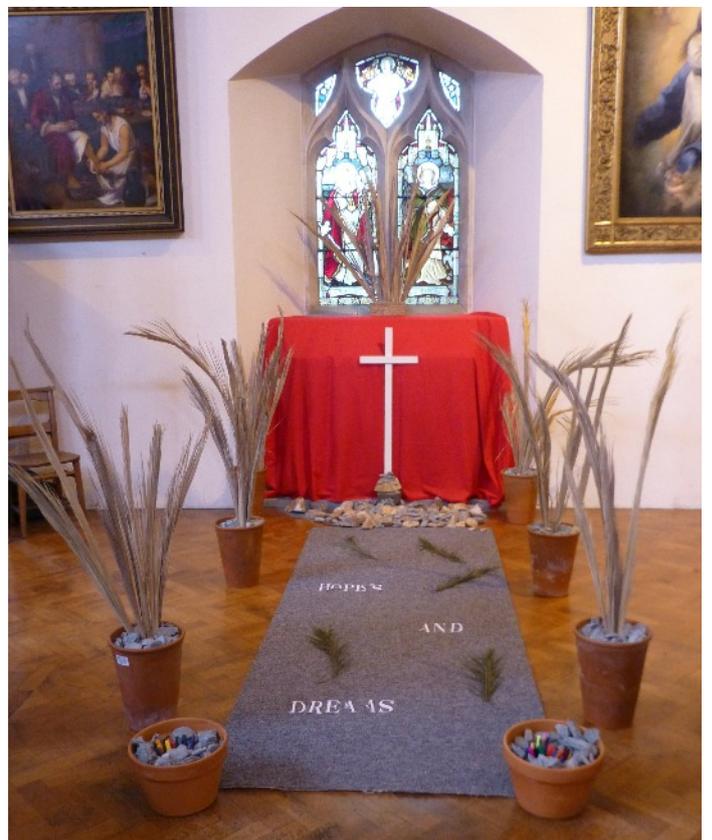
No prizes in this new feature, but give it a try just for a bit of fun

W T P M B V X S R I A H C J T
Q M F A R J Q E A F O S O Y L
R J O D C H E S T C F A P A C
C T K S R O O D Q C Z N Y A L
O D V E D K P I P L F A R N I
J B O I L E R N Y P R P U E L
A M J W Q B T V T N E L C O W
F N O O B S G N S T A I R S A
K K Q O V W D G K I D S C S G
Q S H X X V T Z H G N S W D A
U E G I R E S A C K O O B T R
L T H R E K O O C C T A B L E
J T K H F W A R D R O B E M U
B E U L T L O I G E H C P I P
S E T R D I K D N O B R S I S

This month associated with in and around the home

boiler
doors
bookcase
settee
carpet
sofa
chairs
stairs
chest
table
cooker
wardrobe

EXPERIENCE EASTER





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
 semiquavers

**Youth
 choir in Gravesend
 We meet weekly for
 Rehearsals
 at Christ Church
 Tuesday evenings
 6.15 pm to 7.30 pm**

Farewell Sue

Sue Brewer has been vicar at Christ Church since September 2007, and in that time has transformed the church, to take on its intentionally inclusive and deliberately diverse form.

She was fortunate to inherit a flourishing church under her predecessor, including a group of leading lay members now integrated with newcomers to create a strong team. This has been doubly important since Sue's appointment as Area Dean, transforming the Deanery including the formal and informal structure of mutual support for clergy and parishes and its growing common sense of spirituality; her commitment to which may not always have been appreciated by members of our congregation.

Sue has either initiated or given full support to so many developments in the church, probably most importantly creating the culture of a strongly inclusive church which can readily be observed in practice.

Central to all has been the idea of Mission and Sue has now piloted two Mission Plans through, ensuring they are pragmatic programmes taking account of the views of the whole congregation.

An initial key task was to increase the involvement of young people, essential if Christ Church is to have a future. The monthly all-age service she introduced is a vital and successful part of this process, each service being built around a well-thought out theme. It also gives a platform for our Semi Quavers a children's choir, championed by Sue, which provides music for the church in a variety of contexts as well as outside performances. Some members now feed into the strong church choir. Initially, the Introduction of Welcome to the Lord's Table as a precursor to Confirmation was controversial but is now thriving and widely accepted.

At the time of writing, the church is holding the Easter Experience, an interactive journey, part of a set of four Experiences introduced by Sue, which guides over 800 children from local schools round our church in small groups through the events of

Holy Week, supported by a large number of volunteers from the congregation. This is just one of the many adaptations of the church to make full use of church premises by hosting events, which have blossomed in number and variety over the past ten years. We are also gearing up for the Easter Hot Cross Bun Service, one of a number of children's services which will see the church absolutely packed out.

The church is a much favoured marriage venue for families with Christ Church connections, with Marriage Preparation by Sue seen as an essential aspect of the sacrament, along with baptism preparation.

Sue also has a strong sense of humour; who can forget her part in the Vicar of Dibley skit at a recent Harvest Festival supper, or the illuminated sparkling stole at Midnight Mass. What some will not miss are her regular victories at church quiz nights, with her husband Jeremy!

Sue has a strong sense of family both within the church, and in her home life with her three grown up children and her three grandchildren. She has given so much of her life over the past ten years to the people of Christ Church and the Deanery and is now winding down to look for a less demanding position.

Our thanks, love and very best wishes go to Sue and Jeremy on the next stage of their spiritual life, wherever it may be

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Church cooking competition championing Kent food now open!

A Church of England cookery competition to champion Kent produce is now seeking entries.

Open to all primary-school aged children across Kent, the Kent is Delicious Cookery Competition has been organised by the Communities and Partnerships Framework at the Diocese of Canterbury, and is very easy for any primary or junior school, home-school group, or Rainbow, Cub or Scout pack to get involved with.

All that those wanting to take part need to do is to create a breakfast dish that uses as many local and seasonal ingredients as possible. Entries can be made online or by post.

With a 1st prize of £300, 2 runners-up prizes of £100 (given in vouchers) to put towards a cookery or gardening project, and a chance to cook at the Kent County Show up for grabs, it's well worth stepping up to the 'hot' plate to get involved.

The lucky finalists get to recreate their dishes at the Kent County Show and then have them judged by an expert panel of local food and farming producers and experts.

With so much of Kent dedicated to farming and food production, the competition was developed as a way to support and show the value of the sector, as well as giving young people an opportunity to develop new skills and grow in self-esteem, learn more about where they live and have fun! Canon Caroline Pinchbeck, Director of the Communities and Partnerships Framework, says that with a survey by the

British Nutrition Foundation last year showing that nearly a third of the five to seven-year-olds they asked thought that cheese came from a plant, the competition couldn't be more relevant:

"With so much confusion among young people about where their food comes from, Kent is Delicious is a really fun way for children to get hands-on with their food and to learn about the produce grown on their doorstep.

"We know from previous years what fun the young people have when they take part and the personal development they gain. It would be great to see parents and carers use some of their own pester power to encourage their child's school or group to sign up."

Anyone interested in finding out more should visit the competition website at: www.kentisdelicious.org You can also email kentisdelicious@diocant.org.

Entries must be received by Friday 25 May.



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 1.45pm 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 April 2018.

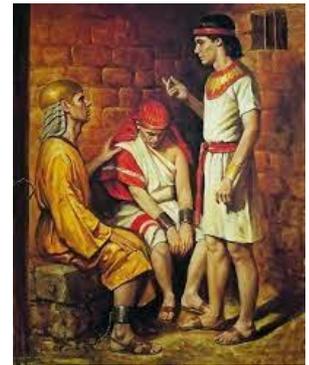
Joseph meets the King

Joseph was far away in Egypt. His wicked brothers had arranged for him to be sent there. When their father asked where Joseph was. They said. "Maybe a wild animal had killed him, as we found only his coat".

Joseph was in prison, alone and very unhappy. But God knew all about it. God loved Joseph and had a special plan for him. Joseph shouldn't have been in prison. He hadn't done anything wrong. It was a mistake. The man in charge of the prison liked Joseph, and after some time he put him in charge of all the other prisoners. **That was part of God's plan.**

One day, the king of Egypt was so cross with the man who brought him his wine that he sent him to prison. The man was very unhappy. He had a dream that upset him. "Tell me all about it," Joseph said. "God will help us understand."

"I had the king's cup in my hand," the man said. "I squeezed some grapes into the cup, and gave it to the king." "That's a good dream," Joseph said. "It means you'll be back at the palace very soon. When you get out of prison, please tell the king about me." "I promise I will," the man said.



Three days later, he was out of prison, but he forgot his promise to Joseph. Then the king had a dream that upset him. "I know someone who can help," said the man who brought him his wine. So the king of Egypt sent for Joseph.

"In my dream I saw seven fat cows by the river. Then seven thin cows came and ate them up," the king told Joseph. God helped Joseph to understand the king's dream. "For seven good years there will be plenty of food," Joseph said. "Then for seven bad years nothing will grow. You must store up food, so that no one is hungry when the bad years come."

"I will put you in charge, just to make sure," the king said. He took off his ring and put it on Joseph's finger. He hung a great gold chain around Joseph's neck, and gave him a chariot to ride in. Joseph was the most important man in Egypt, after the king. **That was part of God's plan, too.**

The bad years came. In Egypt, the food was stored up ready, and no one was hungry. But Joseph's family, back home, had nothing left to eat. "You must go to Egypt to buy food," Joseph's father said to his brothers. It was a long, long journey, but they all had to go, Only Ben, the youngest, stayed at home.



"Next time, Ben must come too," the brothers told Jacob when they got back. "The man in charge says so." They did not know that the man was Joseph.

When Joseph saw Ben, he burst into tears. "It's me, Joseph," he said. "We're in trouble now," his brothers said to themselves. "Joseph will pay us back for being so unkind to him." But instead Joseph hugged and kissed them. "God has taken care of me all this time," he said. "Now I will take care of you." So the whole family came to Egypt.



Tom Shorter the organist and choir director, members of the choir and music group who sang for Passiontide Sunday at Christ Church.

Your Parish Magazine for 2018

£6

If you usually pay for your Christ Church Parish Magazine on an annual basis, then there can be no better time to make your contribution than when you collect your February copy. At just 50p per issue this represents very good value for you to keep up to date with what is coming forward, or what has happened in the few weeks that have just gone by. With the running of your church it is another way in which you can help

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.



Cheese and Wine Evening

With Female Vocalist

“Miss Vintage”

Saturday 28th April 2018

Christ Church Hall

Old Road East

Gravesend

7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Tickets £20.00 inclusive.

Payment in advance, booking by email:-

bens.foundation@gmail.com

or mobile

07711 567286

What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

08.00 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)

Saturday 8 am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7 am.

Wednesday 10 am

For further information

Contact

The Church Wardens

Office hours

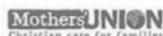
Registered Charity no. 1130741

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

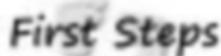
Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Daily | Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards) |
| Monday | Music Group; Brownies |
| Tuesday | Mothers Union (2 nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers |
| Wednesday | Guides |
| | First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm |
| | Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday) |
| Thursday | Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice: 2.30 p.m. Mustard Seed (every third) |
| Friday | Rainbow Unit; Scouts; Parent and Toddler |
| Saturday | Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second) |

 Mothers UNION
Christian care for families



 First Steps



SAFEGUARDING ON-LINE

Have you undertaken safeguarding training recently? The safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults in our churches is of upmost importance and attendance at training is a key element in delivering the Church of England's policy statement Promoting a Safer Church.

The C0 online module is recommended for anyone who needs a basic level of awareness of safeguarding and is now available to complete online. This includes vergers, choir members, refreshment helpers and bell ringers. In addition, C0 is a mandatory requirement for those undertaking modules C1, C2 and C3.

Module C1 is also available online. This course is required for anyone who has safeguarding responsibilities or who have contact with children, young people and/or adults who may be vulnerable. This includes but is not limited to safeguarding officers, safeguarding leads on PCCs, church wardens, helpers at activities, servers, and church administrative staff.

Details of how to access these courses are on the safeguarding pages of the Diocesan website.

If you need any advice on what training you or those in your church should complete, please Greg Barry
greg.barry@rochester.anglican.org 01634 560000

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.

Contact
JOHN THRUSH
200 Club Secretary



MUSTARD SEED

Third Thursday of the month

In

Christ Church hall 2.30 – 4.00

We invite you to come and join us for tea, biscuits, cake and conversation with occasional speakers and quizzes.

Come and find out who we are and meet new people. All ages welcome

Contact: Colin Parsonson: 01474 359713

Pam Kilby: 01474 332693



CALENDAR APRIL 2018

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| Sunday  | 1 EASTER DAY 05.30 Service 08.00 Service 10.00 Easter Service Easter eggs 16.00 Evensong | 8 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 15.00 Farewell service for Sue Brewer | 15 08.00 Service 10.00 All Age Service 16.00 Choral Evensong | 22 08.00 Service 10.00 Service | 29 08.00 Service 10.00 Service |
| Monday  | 2 09.00 Service | 9 08.00 Service BROWNIES | 16 08.00 Service BROWNIES | 23 08.00 Service BROWNIES | 30 08.00 Service BROWNIES |
| Tuesday  | 3 18.15 Semiquavers | 10 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers | 17 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers | 24 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers | |
| Wednesday  | 4 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer | 11 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 17.15 Evening Prayer | 18 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer | 25 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer | |
| Thursday  | 5 Choir Practice | 12 BROWNIES Choir Practice | 19 14.30 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir Practice | 26 BROWNIES Choir Practice | |
| Friday  | 6 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours | 13 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS | 20 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS | 27 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS | |
| Saturday  | 7 08.00 Service | 14 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party | 22 08.00 Service | 29 08.00 Service | |

The Real Easter Egg



SPECIAL EDITION



DARK CHOCOLATE



THE ORIGINAL



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Fighting poverty through trade

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