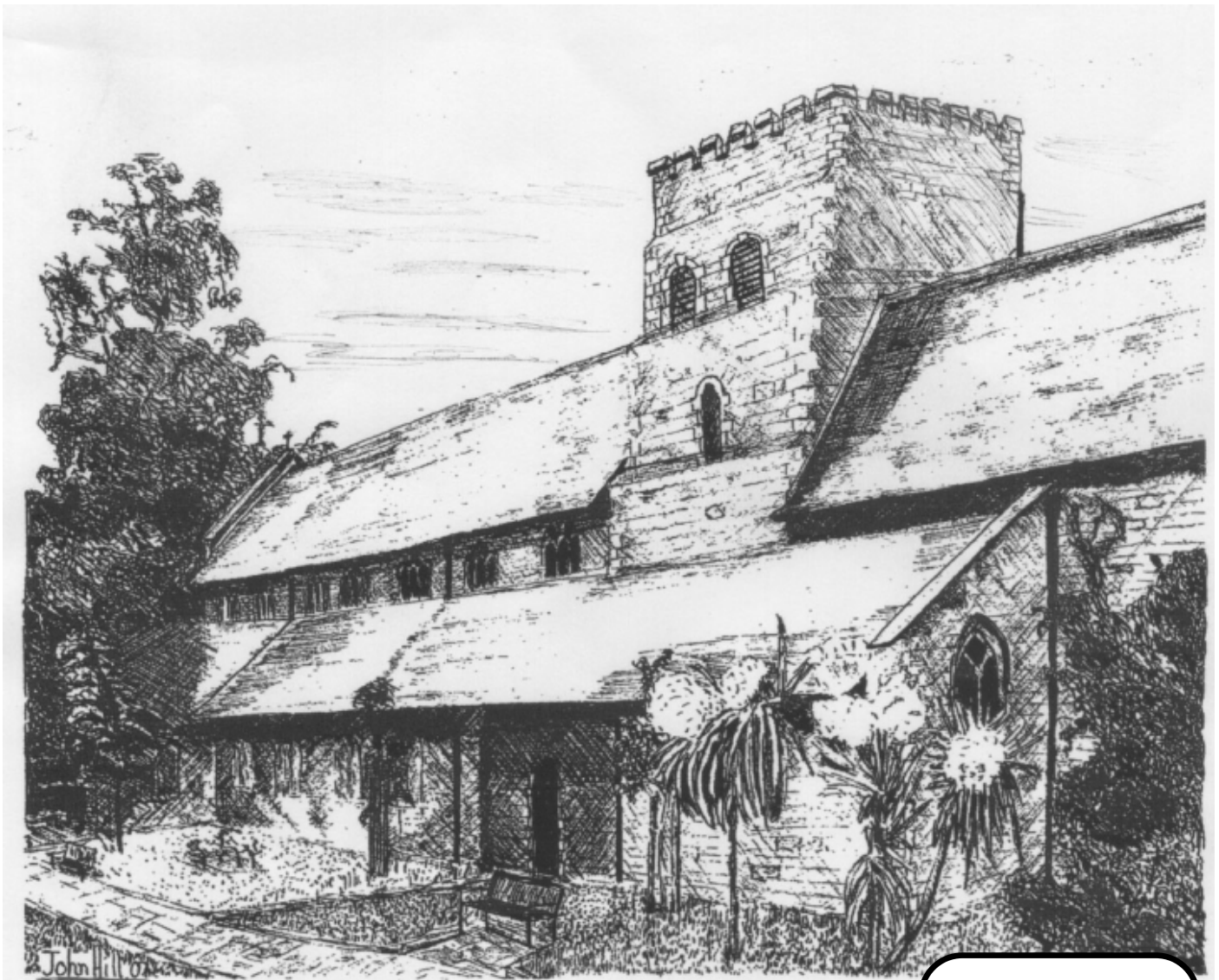




CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

First Steps

Parent & Toddler



CHRIST CHURCH
**YOUTH
CLUB**

God's Gang

Pre-School

30p
or
donation

May
2009

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Stanley Bond	534510
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for June magazine: Sunday 17th May .
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,
or email: ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop

Inside this month's magazine

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Christ Church Hall
is available for hire.
Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett
01474 568585

Well equipped. Very
suitable for meetings
and children's parties.

Welcome to the May Parish Magazine.



First I need to say a big thank you to the Rev Peter Rich of St. Aidans, who gave up his Saturday morning to help print the April magazine when our photocopier decided to have a day off! Thanks also to Mary Sargeant, Bob Bennett and John Thrush for collating the magazine. I hope everyone who wanted a magazine got one, if not it can be found on the church website (www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk), or let me know and I will get a copy for you.

In the magazine Sue tells us about an exciting 2008 and sets the scene for the coming year, as presented to the Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April. At the Annual Meeting thanks were given to Anne Thrush, Lawrence Aspinall (treasurer) and David Casely (served for 20 years with 14 years as a church warden) who have retired from the PCC. 3 new members were elected, see below for details. Michael Charles in his report as Electoral Roll Officer said the roll stood at 177 with 6 new members having joined.

On the front of this month's magazine can be seen already contribute to the production costs of the you were unaware please consider doing so. It can

30p
or
donation

Many of you magazine, but if be gift aided,

ask me or one of the church wardens for more details.



Christian Aid week is 10th to 16th May, when a number of activities are planned, see inside the magazine for more information.

On Sunday 17th May the annual Royal Marines service will take place at 11.30a.m. when Fr Joe King will be preaching.

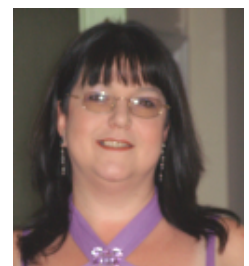
Editor

At the Annual meeting Debbie Carter, Quame Bultman and Steve Humphries were elected to the PCC. (Parochial Church Council). Steve has also agreed to be our new church treasurer.



Steve Humphries

Copies of the annual Report and accounts are available at the back of the church. The Annual Review can be seen on the web site and in this magazine.



Debbie Carter

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2008

2008 has been a year of maintaining and celebrating the established patterns of our church life, as well as stepping out with some new ventures and beginning to plan for the future.

The regular pattern of church life continued during the year... fetes and social events, care for one another, young people's activities, Mothers Union and regular and special services.

All of this is grist to the mill for Christ Church, but it doesn't happen automatically. It happens because people make it happen. So many people giving their time and effort to the mission of the church. This is a family of service and care... people here matter, and we show that the people of Christ Church matter by the many, many ways in which we serve one another. We become a family here as we serve one another, have fun in working alongside each other, care for the weakest and most vulnerable and welcome strangers into our midst with open arms. When all of that is happening well, it is the Christian family at its best and it's a powerful example of Christian love to those who come in contact with us ... lets celebrate all that we have together.

As well as all our regular activities, we have also seen some new ventures during 2008.

Around the building, the hall doors and windows have been replaced, and the new gardeners are doing a great job. Socially, as well as the usual things, the Mothers' Union held a quiz evening, and we had a Spud and Sausage evening in aid of Christian Aid. In August we invited all our baptism families back for a Teddy Bears Picnic (held largely indoors!) which was attended by over 70 parents and their children.

3 new home groups started up during the year. Confirmation classes were also held and much enjoyed and 10 people were confirmed or renewed their baptismal faith at a joyous celebration here last April. Pastorally, the big events of the year have been the Authorisation of Pam Kilby as our new Pastoral Assistant. It has also been a joy to be able to open this beautiful church up to visitors for 1 ½ hours each morning. This started towards the end of the year, and word is just starting to get out.

In our worship we have learned some new songs; re-started an occasional evening service with prayer for healing; and enjoyed an extremely successful 'Back to Church Sunday'.

The biggest thing for 2008, however, has been a process that has begun with the PCC and will come to fruition in 2009. It all started with an away day with Rev Chris Dench last June followed by an extremely successful day in November led by Rev Canon Jean Kerr, bishop's officer for mission and unity. Jean challenged us that Mission is part of the DNA of Christ's church.. that all Christian people are created and called for mission and that this should include presence, proclamation and persuasion. We were able to identify together that Christ Church has a considerable presence in this community.. so many, many people who know and love the church, who think of Christ Church as 'their' church, even if they don't come regularly, and who have links with us through the big services or through family links, or baptisms weddings and funerals.

Many of these people are families with young children – and so we started to look at why so few of these families come along regularly to church. And indeed, why many come along

for a few weeks and then drift away, sometimes to other churches. Out of this exploration came a PCC commitment that our mission focus for the next 2 years would be to Families and Children, seeking to help young families become part of our worshipping community.

The PCC also recognised that this should not be at the expense of two other areas which we see as our particular concern and mission field... our contact and service to the elderly and isolated, especially the service we offer to the over 80s... and our contacts with adults and young people with learning difficulties. In both these areas we recognised the work of the Holy Spirit in giving us particular opportunities and equipping us with particular gifts, as well as bringing particular people into our community; and we want to be careful to build on those opportunities and not to lose them.

But the mission to children and families is the big one – that decision was taken in November 2008 and the challenge begins now.

We recognise that there are many people in our congregation who have been here for many years and have contributed an enormous amount in service to this church and community. Who will care for them in the years to come, and take on the responsibility for sharing the Good News in this community?

If our faith means anything to us, then our calling as followers of Christ is to pass it on to succeeding generations. Younger people today worry about much the same things as anyone else... the safety and security of their jobs, their homes, their children. The state of the world. The health of themselves and those they love. The unbearable pain of bereavement. The big questions... is there a meaning to it all. Does God care. Why me? If we believe we have something to say to those questions, we have a duty to reach out and share it in whatever way we can.

We have a message of Good News for people young and old in this messy world.

So what are we going to do? We don't know yet.

The PCC have divided into 5 committees, covering all the areas of church life.

Children and youth/ buildings and finance/ mission and social events/ Pastoral care and social concern/ Worship and discipleship.

Those committees are busy meeting at the moment... coming up with a mission plan for the next couple of years – 2 or 3 medium-term objectives for each committee. Those ideas will all come together at the PCC away day on 13th June... and from that will come a plan for the years ahead. These will be manageable objectives... affordable, do-able and not sacrificing the precious things that are important to us and make Christ Church what it is and who it is. There will be opportunities to hear about the plan after the away day... to express your feelings and opinions, which are wanted and will be listened to and heeded, and plenty of opportunity to feed in ideas and to influence how we go ahead.

We are on a learning curve... willing to change, to hear how things are received. Hopefully brave enough to try new things... but also big enough to admit if they don't work and make changes if necessary. The thing that will hold us together through it all is shared vision for what God can do here, and a deep love and commitment to each other as the family of God in this place.

I've seen that love in action this year... in your work together, in your care for each other and for us through Katie's operation, in your willingness to make sacrifices for Christ Church, for each other and for the sake of Christ. Thank you for it. May God bless us as we seek his way forward for the year ahead

Rev. Sue Brewer



01474-352696



CHRIST CHURCH

235 Wrotham Road
GRAVESEND
Kent
DA11 7LL

Thank you Brownies

A very big thank you to the Brownies who decorated the egg boxes so beautifully for the (over 80's) at Christchurch. To see the joy on the recipients faces was a delight to behold. Thank you and your parents for the eggs

Betty Martin

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

3rd May	Week 4	Margaret Davies, Ian and Sheila Brown
10th May	Week 5	Barbara Bunyan, Audrey Price, Mary Sargeant
17th May	Week 6	Sylvia Brown, Jasmine and Steve Humphries
24th May	Week 7	Joan and Bob Bennett, Ann Lennard
31st May	Week 8	Colin and Linda Parsonson, Anne Thrush
7th June	Week 9	Jerry and Sally Higgins, Sylvia Brown



Maureen Fittell

Another visit to Echo Square!

This month I have visited a relative newcomer to Echo Square:

Laptop World where I talked to George.

How long have you been at Echo Square?

Only since 4th April 2009 although this is our second store. The first is in Welling High Street where we have been for about 3 years.

Why did you choose to come to Echo Square?

It was recommended to me by Steve from Swan's Kitchens next door who owns the property. It is in a good location by the roundabout, just out of town with plenty of free parking and from which people can carry their computers into the shop.

How many staff do you have?

Two, one full time and Dave who is part time.

What do you offer customers?

A personal service; a fast repair service; advice; a specialisation in laptops with qualified engineers although we do also do P.C.'s; mainly refurbished laptops though some new ones; we stock a range of inks and accessories; we deal with all makes apart from Apple.

What has it been like so far running a business in Echo Square?

We have had interest from lots of people. In just 3 weeks, we are on to our 26th repair job.

Do you feel Christchurch is a part of the community here?

Yes, definitely and it is a lovely church. I know it from taking my dog to dog training classes there!

Footnote: I hadn't noticed the large dog fast asleep on the floor at the back of the showroom until then!

Sheila Brown



Coffee Morning


In the Choir Vestry on Wednesday 6th May following the 10.00a.m. Service. There will be a raffle and a bring and buy table. We hope you can come but if you cannot maybe you would like to contribute a raffle prize or an item for the bring and buy table.

Contemplative Prayer

Asked what he talked to God about when he came into church every day and just sat, the old man replied: "Oh, we don't talk much. He looks at me and I look at Him and we're happy together."

Contemplative prayer is a being-with-God in silence and stillness, without words or thoughts, so that He may work in and through us.

This prayer of the heart is not just for monks and nuns or for particularly 'holy' people. Is it for you? It may well be.



Exploring Contemplative Prayer
Saturday 13th June 2009. 9 45am – 4pm.
Speaker—Séamus Cullen, Spiritual Director, Retreat leader, (England, Ireland & Norway)
St Matthew's Church, Wigmore, Kent, ME8 0NX
5 mins from M2, Junction 4

This teaching day is an opportunity to discover or to deepen our understanding of contemplative prayer. There will be two talks, questions, time for prayer, opportunity to meet with each other, information about Julian Meetings and a bookstall. If you are new to contemplative prayer or want to know more, then this is the day for you.

Cost £7. To register, write to:-
A.Echlin, 10 King St. West Malling, Kent, ME19 6QT.

You may register more than one person. Please include names and payment (£7 each) and s.a.e.
Cheques should be made payable to A Echlin.
Closing date, 1st June, 2009
For further details phone
01732 845550 or 01732848467



COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday	May	29th
Friday	June	26th
Friday	September	25th
Friday	October	30th
Friday	November	27th
Friday	December	11th

Many thanks for your continued support of the Ellenor Lions Hospices.
Registered Charity No. 1121561



Soroptimist International of Gravesend & District

Call My Bluff

(Teams of 3)

Tuesday 5th May 2009
at
**Christ Church Hall,
Old Road East,
Gravesend**
7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

Entrance £2.00
(Includes Tea or Coffee, and Biscuits)

**Raffle for President's Charities
Ellenor Lions Hospices and Homestart**

**For more details ring Sheila on
01474 564234**

Christ Church going **GREEN!** Summer Fair

Saturday 20th June 2009

2.30 pm

In the church, hall and grounds.



Stalls, sideshows, refreshments, raffle, and much more!

New stalls this year: A green stall and an outdoor stall (garden, BBQ, picnic)

Donations gratefully received anytime at church.
Come on the day and bring your friends!

We are collecting the following items for the fete on the following Sundays.

Items being collected

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 17 th May | nearly new & collectables |
| 24 th May | Children's games toys & puzzles |
| 31 st May | Outdoor items eg. for garden, beach & BBQ & Green items
(Both items coloured green & environmentally friendly ones!) |
| 7 th June | White elephant & entertainment (CD's, DVD's, records, tapes, videos) |
| 14 th June | Books and Bottles |
| 20 th June (on the day) | Cakes and plants |

Thank you, Sheila Brown

Choir

Music at Christ Church

Music Group



After all the Holy Week and Easter Day services, we are now busy getting ready for three important occasions.

Each year the Choir are privileged to be able to support the Annual RMA Service. Choir members past and present served in the Armed Services and this is our opportunity to say thank you.

Ascension Day follows soon after and we will be singing an Anthem at the Evening Service.

At Pentecost the Anthem will be "Come Holy Ghost Our Souls Inspire" Recently some members of the Choir took part in the Royal School of Church Music singing examinations. This included solo singing of our chosen pieces and Sight reading of unknown music, singing unfamiliar words to our chosen Psalm chants.

We were also tested on our knowledge of the Church's year and the suitable season of our chosen music, we were also quizzed about our knowledge of the Composers. We were all very nervous and still await the results. Our newest Choir members Chris, Torrey and Georgia have all settled in well and are getting used to having to learn new music.

Pam Kilby

With the busy season of Easter behind us we can relax a little and take time to learn some new songs and maybe even some different arrangements.



Do not forget if you are male and like singing Helen would love you to come and join us.

Gill Campbell

Peace

Help us to understand the quiet harmony of peace.

Let us be calm and thoughtful at home and at school.

Support us in difficult times to make the right choices.

Give us patience to listen and show respect to others.

And help us to think before we act or retaliate.

Amen

By

Spider Class

Whitehill Primary School



The naughty little sheep has gone for a walk, can you find him somewhere in the magazine?

First Steps

8th April 2009

You'll never guess what our naughty little sheep has been up to! He only sneaked into the Mothering Sunday service on 22nd March without telling me! I wondered where he'd gone! Afterwards he said that he just wanted to have a peek at Maisie and Tilly's Baptism because they are part of our First Steps family and he likes them a lot. He said that he really enjoyed the service and was very happy to see so many people in the Church. He tried to join in with some of the hymns but he didn't want to make too much noise in case he was found out! He thought that the little posies that the Mum's were given were really pretty and he wanted one for his Mum but there weren't any left. What a shame. Maybe next year!

It's 25th March and once again our Pre-school children are in Church to sing their special songs and say their "Thank you" prayers. Our naughty little sheep's eyes are the size of saucers when he sees how many of them there are. He's very pleased to see them all. Quite a few of them are in dressing up clothes and looking great! Our naughty little sheep tells me that he would like to dress up too but he isn't sure what he'd like to dress up as. I suggest that a little devil might be appropriate but he isn't sure about that. I am! The children really enjoy their time with us in Church, happily singing, "Here Come the Frogs" "Springtime comes" and "Mother Hen" and joining in all of the actions. We thank God for the lovely spring flowers, for frogs, for our beautiful world and for sending Jesus to us. Our naughty little sheep tells me that he's a bit disappointed that we haven't sung our Marching song but sadly we've run out of time. I'm surprised that he's noticed really because he's all snuggled up to Betty Martin and looking very sleepy. As we sing "Candletime" Harry blows the candle out for me and with waves and smiles the children go back into the hall to carry on with their games.

8th April is a beautiful breezy sunny day. Aren't we lucky? I hope we get a nice crowd for our First Steps service today but as it's in the Easter Holidays who knows? When I arrive at Church to set up our service Julie is already way ahead of me. She says that she isn't feeling too well today and isn't going to stay for the service. Poor Julie! Our naughty little sheep is very sad to hear that she's poorly and won't be keeping us company. He's decided today that he is going to stand close to me so that he can see everyone and not be forgotten, as he was last month. He still hasn't really got over it!

When everything is ready some of our Mums and children begin to arrive. First in today is Laura with Ella and William, closely followed by newcomer Danielle and her baby Kiera, who has just woken up. Then come Isabelle and Grandma Anne. Our naughty little sheep is really interested to see that Isabelle has brought her very own little girl sheep with her. We find out that her name is Chloe and he tells me that he's determined to have a little chat with her later. I catch a glimpse of him standing there behind me and I must say that he's looking distinctly flirty. I'm going to have to keep an eye on that sheep! When everyone is happy and settled with jingle bells and clackers in hand we begin our service. And though some of our regulars can't be with us today we've still got a lovely, lively crowd including Milly and Maisie who are both on holiday from big school.

So off we go, beginning with "Candletime" of course and some special candles including one for Daniel, my new grandson and for Molly, Tilly's new baby cousin who was born all the way across the world in Australia this very morning. Isn't that wonderful! And what's more our theme today is "Easter" with all its promise of new life. What could be more appropriate? We remember that Good Friday comes before Easter Day and we can't have

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The Christian Aid Breakfast



Sunday 10th May from 8.30 - 9.15 a.m. If you would like to come please sign the sheet on the table in the west end of the church. We would be glad to have jars of home-made jam and marmalade to use for the breakfast or to sell.

We are looking for two extra people to help set up, serve and clear up at the breakfast. Let Julie Hill know if you can help.

Touch me with your fire and
set me ablaze with your love!

Cut along here

Cut out flames from coloured tissue and stick them on the head band. Fix the head band to fit with staples or glue or sticky tape.

Ideas for messages ...

Live in the Spirit of God

May God's love give you joy

May you know the power of God's love

May the Holy Spirit fill your life

Peace be with you

God loves you

God's Gang

You may need to stick the head band onto a longer strip of paper or card.

Colour the flames and write messages on them. Give them to people in church or to someone you pray for.

See Acts 2:1-12



Bringing hope to children in Zambia



Wendy Ely

is coming to Christchurch Hall

on Wednesday 3rd June

Come for tea/coffee and biscuits at 7.30

before she tells us about this children's charity in Zambia

at 8 p.m.

We shall have a secondhand bookstall (50p each) and a raffle.

Bring a book to sell on the night and buy another!



GARDENING TIPS FOR May



May, a very busy but rewarding month for gardeners. Spring bulbs have reached the end of their flowering season and their dead heads should be removed. Any bulbs that are going to be naturalized would be best left with all leaves intact for some 6 weeks after flowering to enable them to gain size and strength for next years display.

During the second half of this month, winter flowering Pansies, Polyanthus and Daisies will have to be removed making way for Summer bedding plants.

Ideally, Summer bedding including that to be grown in containers should be in their permanent positions by the end of this month. If you are a little late don't worry, the first week in June will be satisfactory.

This month is the time to complete the pruning of any shrub that has flowered this Spring. Cut off all the flowering stems to allow next years flowering shoots to grow strongly.

ADAM

May



Highlights this month !



Christian Aid Week

Sunday 	31 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club	3 8 am Service 10 am Service 5.30 Confirmation class Youth Club	10 Christian Aid breakfast 8 am Service 10 am Service 5.30 Confirmation class Youth Club 6.30 Evensong	17 8 am Service 10 am Service 11.30 RMA Service 5.30 Confirma- tion class Youth Club	24 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club
Monday 		4 Bank Holiday	11 Cubs Brownies	18 Cubs Brownies	25 Bank Holiday
Tuesday 		5 Soroptimist Call My Bluff	12 MU Deanery Quiet Morning	19	26
Wednesday 		6 10.30 Chrasiatian Aid coffee morning Guides MU Meeting	13 1.45 pm First Steps Guides	20 Guides	27 Guides
Thursday 		7 Beavers Brownies	14 Beavers Brownies	21 Beavers Brownies Ascension Day 7.30 HC service	28 Beavers Brownies
Friday 	1 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	8 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	15 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	22 Parent & Toddler Ellenor Lions Coffee Morning Scouts Office Hours	29
Saturday 	2 Working Party	9	16	23	30

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 Uniformed Organisations parade

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

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Open Church

Monday to Friday
10 am until 11.30 am

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Cubs; Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday

Wednesday Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)
First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm

Thursday Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice

Friday Scouts; Amateur Dramatics; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working party (1st Saturday)

Sunday Christ Church Youth Club

