



CHRIST CHURCH  
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

# PARISH MAGAZINE

December  
2009

30p

or  
donation



John Hill 2007

*Wishing you a happy and Holy Christmas  
from Christ Church*

**See page 9  
For details of  
Christmas at  
Christ Church**

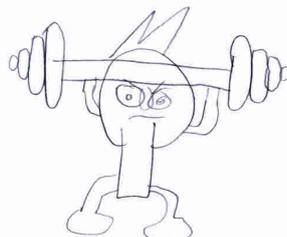


Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	323515
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for January magazine: Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December .  
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,  
or email: [ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop](mailto: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.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

Why not go out on a limb? That's  
where the fruit is.

Mark Twain



Welcome to the December edition of the Parish Magazine. In a recent publication delivered to all households in the Parish Adam Holloway MP extolled the virtue of getting to know your neighbour (spelt correctly this month!). At this time of year throughout Advent Christians look ahead to the birth of Jesus Christ and his second coming (for more details of Christmas at Christ Church see page 9).

Jesus said that his followers should put the needs of others before themselves.

The picture on the front of the magazine is the picture on the Christ Church Christmas card delivered to every house in the Parish - it depicts Mary and Joseph with the new born Jesus - it is from a painting painted by the daughter-in-law of Joan Jarvis, a member of Christ Church.

Everyone at Christ Church wishes  
everyone in the Parish  
a Happy Christmas.

Editor

**Wishing all at Christ Church**

**A very Happy and Peaceful Christmas**

**God Bless you all**



Audrey Price



Instead of cards this year I have donated to  
Present Aid some ducks for Bangladesh,  
and pigs for Bolivia.

# Facts about Christmas



Father Christmas has two addresses, Edinburgh and the North Pole. Letters addressed to 'TOYLAND' or 'SNOWLAND' go to Edinburgh, but letters addressed to 'THE NORTH POLE' have to be sent there because there really is such a place.



Father Christmas' reindeer are called Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner/Donder, Blitzen and Rudolph. Eight of these names are taken from Clement C. Moore's "A Visit From St. Nicholas" and the ninth from the song "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" (NB. Donder is also known as Donner).



White Christmas England has only known seven white Christmases in the entire twentieth century. According to the records of the Meteorological Office in London,

snow fell on Christmas Day only in 1938 and 1976 (The definition of a white Christmas in England is when one snowflake falls on the roof of the

## Christmas Day

25th December was not celebrated as the birthday of Christ until the year AD 440.



The Queen's Christmas speech was televised for the first time in 1957.

## Christmas Carols

St Francis of Assisi introduced Christmas Carols to formal church services.



The word comes from the ancient Greek choros, which means "dancing in a circle," and from the old French word carole, meaning "a song to accompany dancing".

The first instrument on which the carol "Silent Night" was played was a guitar.

The popular Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was composed in 1857 by James Pierpoint, and was originally called "One-Horse Open Sleigh." It was actually written for Thanksgiving, not Xmas.



Christmas crackers were invented by Thomas Smith. He had imported some French novelties to sell as Christmas gifts, but these were not popular until he wrapped them up and added a snapper.

Thank you to the young people of Woodlands Junior School for the interesting information about Christmas.

More information can be found on their web site [www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk)

## To all members of the congregation:

You have probably heard that Gwyneth Charles is retiring as our organist and choir director at the end of December. Gwyneth's last service will be evensong on Sunday 27th December and all are (of course) invited to that service. But we will also be taking the opportunity to say 'thank you' to Gwyneth with some nibbles, mince pies and a glass or two of wine, after the Carols by Candlelight Service at 6.30 p.m. On Sunday 13th December.

Gwyneth has been playing the organ since she was 16, and has been organist and choir director here since 1984. We would like to thank her for these years of loyal service with a gift from us all. If you would like to contribute to this gift, please give donations to Betty Martin, Dorothy Oliver or Rev Sue Brewer.

### Beat the Post Christmas blues - do a guided walk

#### A guided historical walk around Chalk Marshes to Shornemead and Denton.

On Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009.

Meet: 10am on corner of Castle Lane and Lower Higham Road, Chalk.

Guide: Christoph Bull (District Manager of Gravesham Libraries and local historian).

The walk is free, no need to book just turn up for a lovely post

Christmas walk across the Chalk Marshes with historical commentary along the way.

The walk will last about 2 hours and the route does include stiles, so sensible footwear is needed.

Details: Christoph Bull 01474 320156.



Soroptimist International of  
Gravesend & District

## Quiz Evening

A Fun Evening on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010  
7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

At Christ Church Hall, Old Road East, Gravesend

Proceeds

To support our Link Club  
Freetown, Sierra Leone

£5.00 entry per person

Raffle

Teams-  
Maximum  
6 in each

Bring your  
own Snacks  
and Drinks

**Admission by Ticket only**

Apply to Sheila Knight 01474 564234



# CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

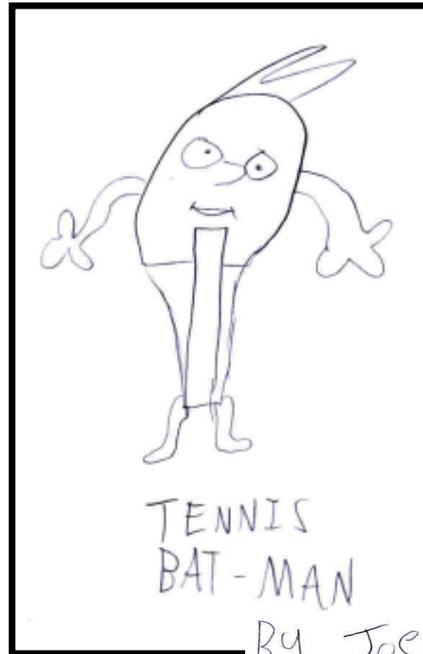
At a recent Youth Club evening the young people were set challenges, they had to play table tennis, snooker, Jenga against each other, they were also challenged to design a Christmas Card and cartoon characters suitable for use in the Parish Magazine. Christmas cards and Christmas log table decorations made during a youth club evening were on sale at the Christmas Bazaar.

The following are examples of their cartoon characters:

Helena Todd



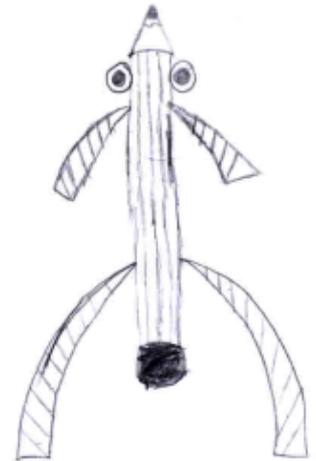
chocolate man



TENNIS  
BAT-MAN

By Joe  
PACE

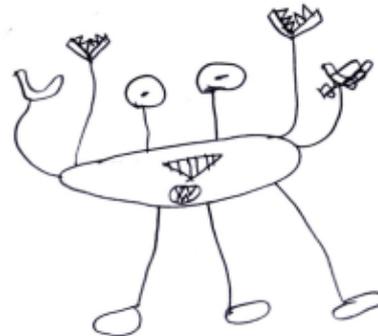
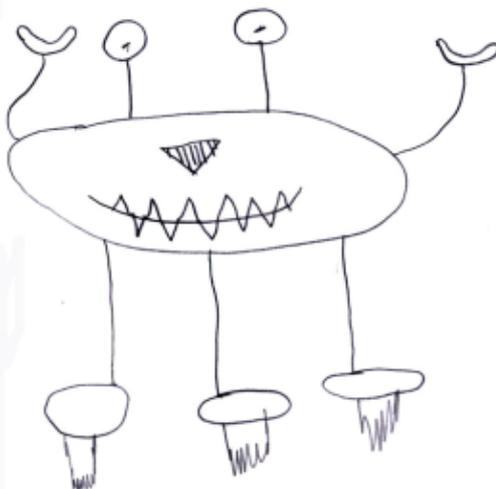
Doodle-Man



Joel Todd,



Crab  
crab  
man



man

Edward Gill

# Did I read that sign right?

**Did I read that sign right?  
TOILET OUT OF ORDER.  
PLEASE USE FLOOR  
BELOW**

**In a Laundromat:  
AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES:  
PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES  
WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT**

**In a London department store:  
BARGAIN BASEMENT  
UPSTAIRS**

**In an office:  
WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE  
STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE  
BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS  
WILL BE TAKEN**

**In an office:  
AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF  
SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT  
AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN  
ON THE DRAINING BOARD**

**Outside a second-hand shop:  
WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING -  
BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC.  
WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG  
AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?**

**Notice in health food shop  
window:  
CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS**

**Spotted in a safari park:(I sure hope so)  
ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR  
CAR**

**Seen during a conference:  
FOR ANYONE WHO HAS  
CHILDREN AND DOESN'T  
KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY  
CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR**

**Notice in a farmer's field:  
THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO  
CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE  
BULL CHARGES..**

**On a repair shop door:  
WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING.  
(PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON  
THE DOOR - THE BELL  
DOESN'T WORK)**

**Message on a leaflet:  
IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET  
WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET  
LESSONS**

# A Festival of Light

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November, The Riverside Centre in Dickens Rd, was packed with colour, light, food and excitement! The North Kent Council for Interfaith Relations and the Thames Gateway Women's Multifaith Forum organised an evening to celebrate festivals using light from many faiths: Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh.

We heard about these festivals, mainly from children, following a parade during which lights were carried including Christingles, Buddhist Loy Kathong floating candles, Hindu Matkas, lanterns, candles and a Saint Lucia crown. A Santoor player entertained us with enchanting music and his daughter, Roya sang beautifully and unaccompanied. Varda Shafi also commentated on some Muslim preparations for Eid.

Christ Church's Ellie and Abbie Jewiss told us all about Christingles and the Advent Ring accompanied by Sheila Knight on the keyboard and some of our children including a Brownie and a Guide helped with Christingles and to illustrate the story of the Swedish Saint Lucia. We were pleased to welcome John Perumbalath, Chairman of NKCIFRKT and Chris Stone, Patron of the Women's Forum who introduced the evening.

Lesley Mills, chair of the Forum drew the formalities to a close with a thought provoking prayer from Mother Theresa to which we could all relate:

The fruit of silence is PRAYER,  
The fruit of prayer is FAITH,  
The fruit of faith is LOVE,  
The fruit of love is SERVICE,  
The fruit of service is PEACE.

May we know TRUE PEACE in our heart, in our homes, and in our communities.  
Amen

I was struck by the many similarities between all that the speakers from many faiths had said and how so much more unites than divides us. Of course another thing all festivals share is food and we finished with a splendid feast of rice, curry, samosas, cheese scones, yule logs, mince pies, tea, coffee and fruit juice served by among others, some of our Mother's Union members. On a very wet evening, the chat and sociability was great and people seemed reluctant to leave what was a very happy, shared evening of fellowship.

*Sheila Brown*



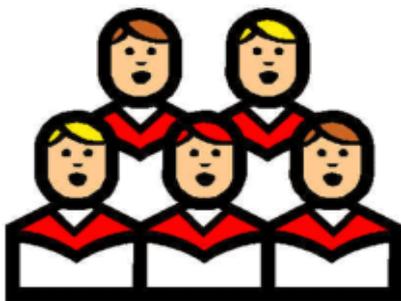
# Christmas at Christ Church



Sunday 29th November 10 a.m.  
ADVENT SUNDAY

Sunday 6th December 4.00 p.m.  
CHRISTINGLE

A magical start to Advent for all the family, with oranges, sweets and candles



Sunday 13th December 6.30 p.m.  
A Concert of Christmas Music with seasonal refreshments as we say 'thank you' to Gwyneth Charles' Organist and Choir Director, who retires this year.

Friday 18th December 7.00 p.m.  
COME AND SING

Informal Carol singing around the parish. Meet in the church.



Sunday 20th December 6.30 pm  
A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

(During this service, there will be an opportunity to remember loved ones who will be missed this Christmas)



CHRISTMAS EVE 4.00 p.m.  
CRIB SERVICE  
A SERVICE ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN.  
Bring presents for the children at the women's refuge.

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 p.m.  
MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY  
HOLY COMMUNION at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.





# First Steps

11<sup>th</sup> November 2009

11<sup>th</sup> November and a dull damp autumn day turns into a wet one, yuck, and just in time for our First Steps service too. I do hope that this horrible weather doesn't put too many people off. I walk up to church in the pouring rain and when I get into the Choir vestry, it's pouring with rain in there too! What a disaster! Later we discover that someone has stolen the lead flashing from the roof. How mean is that! Our naughty little sheep is most upset by it all! He's brought some of his friends to our service again and he's a bit worried that they'll get wet.

Anne and Isabelle arrive to help me set up and Isabelle has got a very smart umbrella with a special light in the handle. I want one!! Isabelle has also brought her sheep Chloe, and our naughty little sheep is very pleased to see her. When everything is ready and he and his friends are all comfortable, some of our regulars begin to arrive. Grace and Molly are first in again though there is no picnic today. And it isn't long before they are joined by lots of other children with their Mums and there are some Grandmas too. It's so nice to see them all. Our naughty little sheep is standing very still on our little altar. He's practising, pretending that he's in the stable at the Crib service. It won't be long before he is!

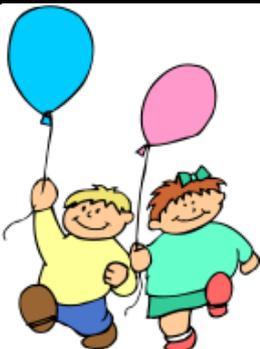
As we begin we have some special candles to light: one for Olivia who is going to be baptised on Sunday, one for Billy who

has just had his 2nd birthday and one for Sophie's Auntie Jill who isn't very well. Today we are thinking about birds and how we all need to make sure that they have enough food and water over the wintertime. We sing about birds pecking on the ground and how we love the birds that sing to us. Our naughty little sheep especially likes the song we have about hedgehogs having their winter rest and William is trying really hard to copy all of the actions. There is lots of happy jingling of bells as Martha and Isabel dance to the music. We thank God for birds and for penguins, because our naughty little sheep's penguin friend has joined us today. And of course we mustn't forget Mother Hen with her baby chick and lots of lovely eggs!

After a hearty rendition of "My God is So Big" it's time to blow out the candles and go out into the Hall though our naughty little sheep stays in the Church for a bit, chatting with his friends. Later Isabelle takes him for a walk to see Chloe. They've got a lot to catch up on. After a lovely time playing and chatting in the Hall it's time to leave. Our time together always flies by. Our naughty little sheep and I do hope that everyone will join us again on 9<sup>th</sup> December when we will be thinking about Baby Jesus and the Christmas story, so it will be extra special.

God Bless.

Rosemary Austin.



## Kiddies Korner

Is there a volunteer who would be willing to tidy up the carpeted area at the back of the church after the service each Sunday morning, and to check that children's toys and books are ready for the next users?



Girlguiding

*girls in the lead*



An historic time has just taken place as Girlguiding started its centenary celebrations. Over 550,000 girls and women in the UK celebrated within their own Divisions with the UKs

biggest birthday bash spread over the weekend of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September. Locally 400 Rainbows, Brownies and Guides joined together to hold a massive fun afternoon with the girls having lots of laughter and excitement on bouncy castles, obstacle courses, slides etc and made many crafts and did cooking from around the world as well as face painting. This included the Brownies and Guides of 1<sup>st</sup> Swanscombe. The event was called “The Big Bouncy Party” and was opened by the Mayor of Gravesham.

Following this excitement the girls have been getting back into working in their units.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Milton Brownies have been completing some of the Centenary challenges including celebrating with dance and learning new dances. They had a visit from the Jugnu Bhangra dance group. We had a go at the dancing and watched some of their amazing stunts. They also had a Scottish evening – learning a reel, listening to bagpipe music and trying Scottish food.

One of their Brownies has been selected to take part in the County Showtime which will be held in February. Well done to her.

At the beginning of term they completed the LaSER walking challenge and were pleased to be joined on one of our walks by Vicar Sue and her lovely dog. They also did the God’s Golden Acre Challenge learning about Africa while enjoying making sweets and bracelets

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Milton Guides have held a camp reunion with Guides from Swanscombe. It went well the Guides presented the camp photos each patrol had taken and talked about one day each. The older girls acted out themselves as old ladies talking about what fun they had as guides at camp 2009 and stopped for each patrol to talk about the camp photos. 17 Guides signed up for Centenary camp at Cudham next July which is a large County Camp as part of the Centenary Celebrations.

At the moment the patrols are each doing a GFI from healthy eating, globlistic, passion 4 fashion, lights camera action, 5 senses. They have also had a first aid evening doing CPR they enjoyed having a go on the dummies. The girls who came to camp have now completed first aid badge. They are now planning Christmas crafts and making sweets.

The leader has asked for urgent help in somebody to come forward who is prepared to go into uniform as one of her assistants. Her numbers are high and with Brownies due to go into her unit she needs that extra help. If you were a Guide or Brownie and would like to give something back why not ring me and find out what is involved. You don’t have to have been involved with Girlguiding before though. Don’t be shy. Still give me a ring so that we can chat with no pressure being put on you.

Everybody in Milton would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

Josie

Girlguiding Thames Division Marketing, Recruitment and PR Adviser.



# THANK YOU

70 completed shoeboxes and a quantity of small items that could be added to partially filled ones- that was the grand total Peter and I were able to deliver to the Blythswood Care depot in Rochester. On arrival we were besieged by volunteer helpers wanting to help



unload our car- there is only one paid helper in the whole depot. Peter was able to go upstairs in the warehouse and get a birds' eye view of the boxes being unloaded, checked, and packed into stronger, larger boxes for transportation. We delivered our boxes on a Tuesday to be told that they would start their journey on Thursday the same week to make Serbia by Christmas. This shipment was also featured on Radio Kent the day the lorry left.

Boxes would also begin journeys to Hungary, Kosovo, India and Pakistan - fewer would be going to Romania this time as the economic climate is improving.

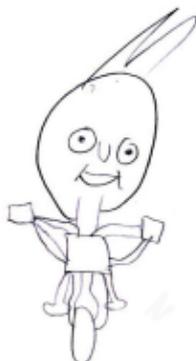
Thank you to everyone, young, old, single, married, Brownies, Guides, nursery, grannies and grandchildren who helped to make it a happy Christmas for someone thousands of miles away this year. Thank you for your help and support (and if you buy shoes in 2010 keep the shoeboxes for next year!)

*Veronica Read.*

## CCADS



CCADS would like to thank everyone who came and supported them on Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th of November when they performed an evening of One Act Plays



With less than 5 weeks until Christmas we have been practising hard learning new songs and brushing up on some familiar favourites.

This month not only will we be singing at the 10 o'clock on the second Sunday, we will also be leading the Lights of Love service later that afternoon.

We will also be joining other members of Christ Church in the St George's Centre on the 19<sup>th</sup> December to sing carols in aid of Christian Aid. Then on the 20<sup>th</sup> we will be singing two new carols at the 1X Lessons and Carols. If it is not too early we would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas.

## Music Group



*Gill Campbell*



# COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday December 11<sup>th</sup>

Cold Harbour Road

10 am to 12 pm

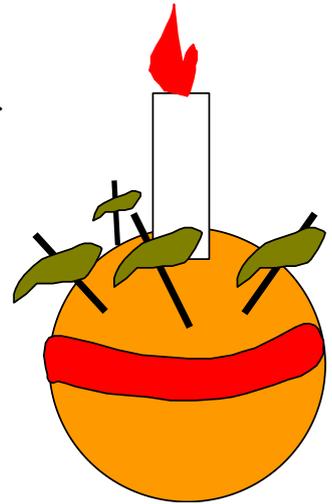
Many thanks for your continued support of the Ellenor Lions Hospices.

Registered Charity No. 1121561

# Christingle

Sunday 6th December  
4pm

All welcome



## Christmas Bazaar

Thanks to everyone who took part in the Bazaar .. We raised over £1700. Well done! There is one unclaimed raffle prize - Yellow ticket No 90 - a low number, so possibly a stall holder.



### Organist/ Choir Director wanted

*Gwyneth Charles, who has been organist and choir director at Christ Church for many years, will be retiring at the end of the year. Do you know anyone who might like to join us?*

*The choir is RSCM affiliated.*

*Full SATB choir, and a full range of all kinds of church music.*

*Rates paid for services and choir practices, and generous payment for weddings and funerals (about 20 of each every year). Possibility of a job-share.*

*Contact Rev Sue Brewer (01474 352643) if you are interested.*

## Carol singing in aid of Christian Aid.

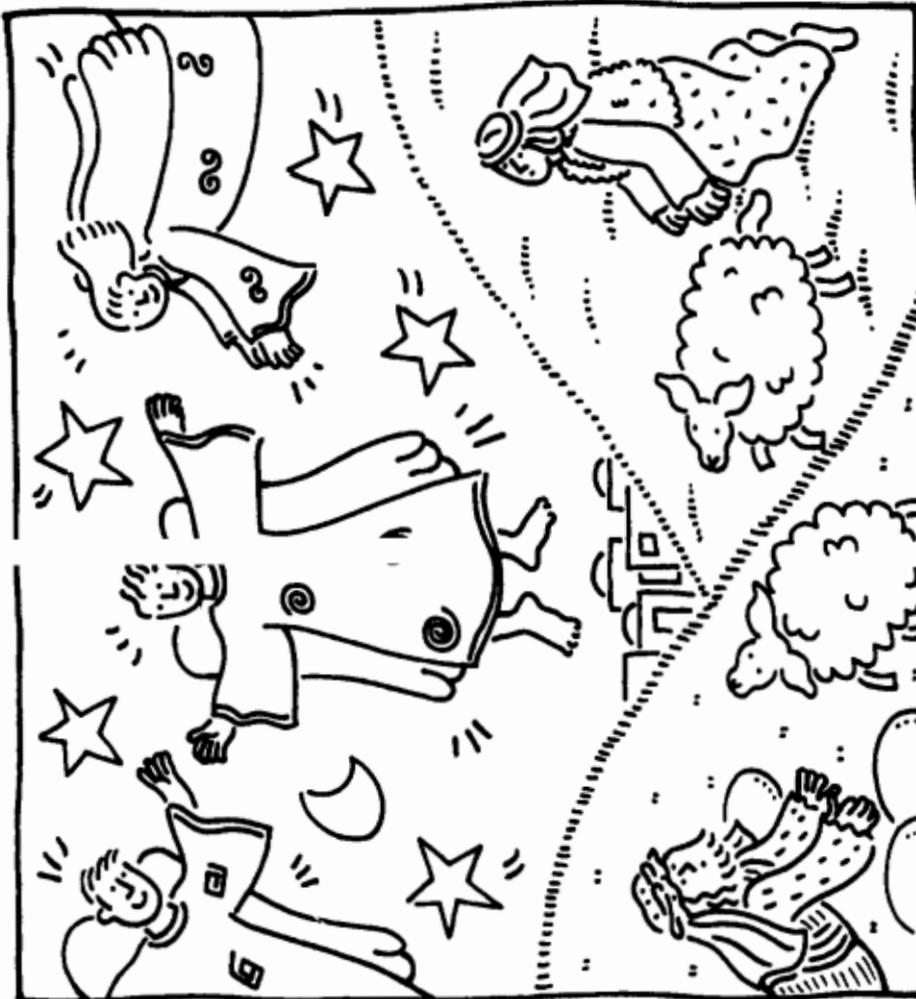
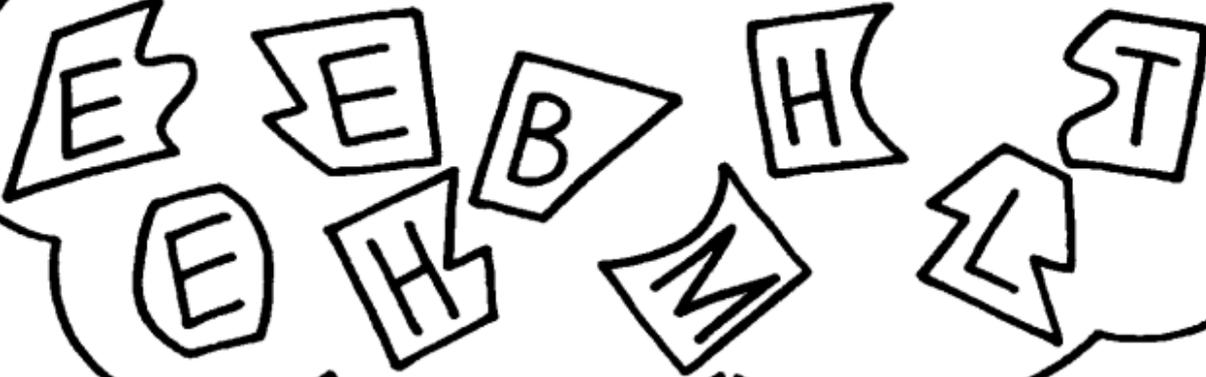
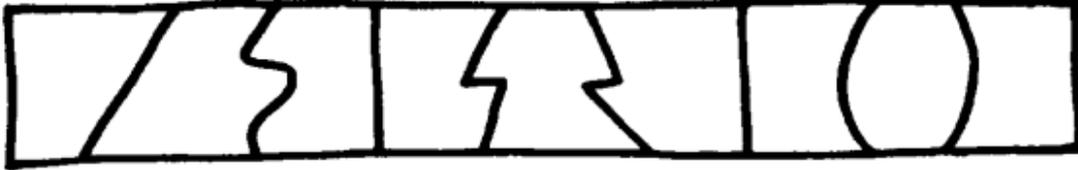
St George's Centre, Gravesend  
Sat 19th December 11.30 - 12.00  
Please come and help Christ Church make a joyful noise.

## Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

29th Nov	Week 10	Pauline Marks, Margot Edwards, Angela Kirby
6th Dec	Week 11	Rita Smith, Jean Stoddart, Sheila Knight
13th Dec	Week 12	Betty Martin, Margaret Davies, Maria Watson
20th Dec	Week 1	Vena Croydon, Julie & John Hill, Charmaine Bultman
27th Dec	Week 2	Sandy Barden, Jenny Shoesmith, Joan Bennett
3rd Jan	Week 3	David & Shirley Whitehead
10th Jan	Week 4	Margaret Davies, Ian & Sheila Brown

Maureen Fittell

What town was Jesus born in?



Colour this picture carefully.

As you do it, thank God  
for coming into our world.

# December

Highlights this month !

## Christmas Day Christingle

Sunday	29 Nov Advent Sunday  8 am Service 10 am Service  Youth Club	6  8 am Service 10 am Service 4 pm Christingle-Service  Youth Club	13  8 am Service 10 am Service 4 Ellenor Service 6.30 Carols by Candlelight	20  8 am Service 10 am Service  6.30 Service of Lessons and Carols	27  8 am Service 10 am Service	
	Monday	30 Nov St Andrew's Day Cubs Brownies  Music Group	7  Cubs Brownies Music Group	14  Cubs Brownies	21	28
	Tuesday	1	8	15	22	29
	Wednesday	2 Open Church after 10am service  Christmas Social  Guides	9 Open Church after 10am service  First Steps 1:45pm  Guides	16 Open Church after 10am service  Guides	23	30
	Thursday	3  Beavers Brownies Choir Practice	10  Beavers Brownies Choir Practice	17  Beavers Brownies Choir Practice	24  Christmas Eve 4 Crib Service  11.30 Midnight Mass	31  Hogmany
	Friday	4  Parent & Toddler  Office Hours Scouts	11  Parent & Toddler  Office Hours Scouts	18  Parent & Toddler Office Hours Scouts 7 pm Come and sing Carols	25  Christmas Day  8 Service 10 Service	
	Saturday	5  Working Party	12	19	26	
						

# 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

Wednesday

After the 10 am  
service

## 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

