



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

November 2011

30p

Or donation



Remembrance Day services

Christ Church

Remembrance Sunday – 10 am on 13 November in church – two minutes silence will be observed at 11 am.

Windmill Gardens War Memorial

Jacqueline Littlewood will be presiding at the service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on Windmill Hill on Sunday 13 November, from 10.30 am

Deadline for magazine:
 Second Sunday of the
 month prior to publication,
 ie: November 13 for
 December etc.

E-mail to
 ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk,
 hand to a Churchwarden, or
 Mike Cubitt

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

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 |
| Deacon | Jo Drew | 364367 |
| Pastoral Assistant | Pam Kilby | 332693 |
| Church Warden | Christine Sewell | 745443 |
| Church Warden | Ian Brown | 356339 |
| 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 |

People at Christ Church - A PERSONAL PROFILE

Colin Parsonson

I was born in September 1949 the second of my parents three children; I have an older sister and a younger brother. The first sixteen years of my life were spent in, Whitehill Lane where I enjoyed an extremely happy childhood. School days were spent firstly at Whitehill school, infant and junior, in Sun Lane. My secondary education took place at Southfields school, no longer in existence, in, Singlewell Road.

At the age of about seven or eight I began attending Sunday school at St Faith's chapel in Central Avenue and although memories of this are vague, I do recall that this was run by Mrs Gates. My first direct contact with Christ Church came at the age of ten when I joined the church choir under the leadership of Arthur Lansley and stayed for two years

In 1966 the family moved to, Parrock Road and in late August of that year I started my first job with APCM, latterly Blue Circle, at Whites works, Swanscombe. In 1970 I joined the Whitehill Players, an amateur drama group, and it was here that I met my future wife, Linda. We were married in 1973 at St George's church, Gravesend, where we were later to spend nearly thirty years as members of the church family. During this period we were blessed with three children, Daniel, Ian and Hannah.

In 2006 we moved from St George's and found ourselves at Christ Church, something of a homecoming for me, and decided that we would bide our time before becoming involved in any specific aspect of church life however, God had other plans and that idea went right out of the window.

In 2008 I took early retirement from the Metropolitan Police Service, where I had spent twenty two years as a civilian employee, with the intention of taking some time out. However, God had other ideas and in September 2009 I began two years of study which led to me being authorised as a Pastoral Assistant on 8th October 2011, in Rochester Cathedral.

A CELEBRATION IN MUSIC

In aid of the EllenorLions Hospice

St Georges Church Gravesend

Saturday 29 October at 7.00 pm

Featuring

The Medway Band

With Riverview Junior School Choir

Tickets £7

Concessions £6



God's Gang

CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

Who is the God we worship?

The one who made mountains?

The one who made the sea?

The one who made the whole universe?

Where is the God we worship?

very close - we live and move in him

on a holy mountain?

far away above the sky

How do we know what God is like?

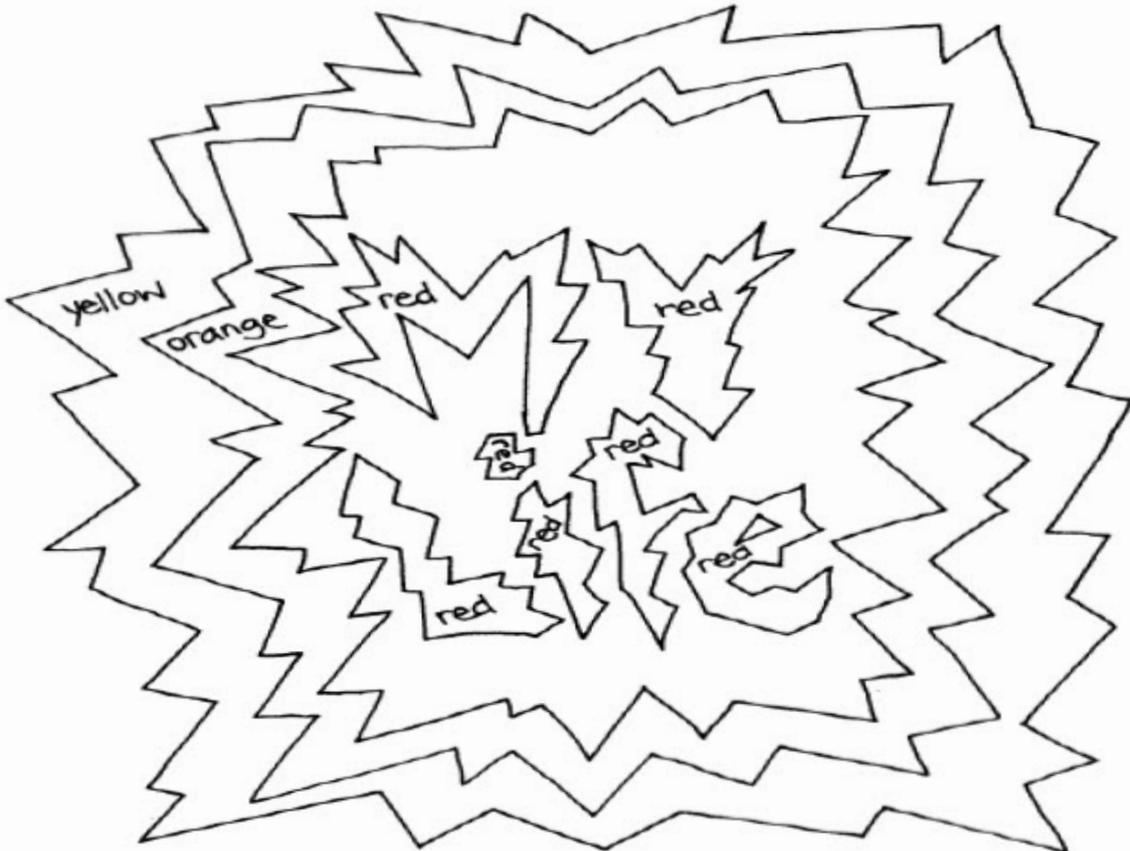
because when we pray we start behaving like him

because we can see him in Jesus

because the world he made shows us his character

COLOUR THE TRUE SHAPES

'Let your life shine to show God's glory!'



THOUGHTS ON *EXPERIENCES*

Experience Harvest has ended; the last of the 500 children have departed; and the five 'stations' around the church are no more. I felt that the huge amount of team efforts deserve some permanent recognition and, having been one of the guides, I thought to complete that record. These words can only be a personal view, but I am sure that others share it. These few weeks take me back twenty years to my retirement from teaching, when children figured largely in my life. It is easy to be wearing rose-tinted spectacles, but having groups of children such as we have been having made me realise what it was that made me take up teaching in the first place. If nothing else, it also made me aware how very tiring it can be ...

This final theme *Experience: Harvest!* set out to show that we were talking about the whole context of God's goodness in providing his people with sustenance in all its forms. Thus the five stations were not concerned solely with '*bringing in the sheaves*' as the old hymn (and Psalm 126) puts it. In that way we were enabled to point out that there are also harvests of the earth (by extracting clay we can make pottery); of the oceans; of the flocks (here weaving figured largely); and in our own gardens or allotments. There were however, deeper meanings: and each station had its own theme of one of God's gifts: Joy, Generosity, Humility, Patience and Peace.

Here we were making use of the Jewish Harvest – known as Sukkot or the Feast of Tabernacles. Our groups of children had been on a journey as had the Jews: those 40 years through the wilderness with Moses to the Promised Land. Jews today follow the Biblical exhortation (Leviticus 23:42) to remind themselves of the goodness of God in protecting them through that terrible experience by building a temporary shelter every harvest time, in their own homes, and even living in it. This set the pattern for our journey's end here in Christ Church, and everyone visiting Christ Church over the weeks of our Harvest Experience will have seen our version of the Sukkah (one translation is simply a 'hut'). Like the Jews, the hut is hung with fruit in recognition of God's goodness in providing us with our needs; and the roof is open to the sky, letting all within know that God is looking over us.

Harvest was what we all garnered from our own experiences of being an integral part of the whole; and it seemed to me that those five of God's gifts would easily apply to what we and the children were experiencing, and I have set those out here. I am sure others can add to my list!

Peter Shearan October 2011

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota



| | | |
|--------|----------|--|
| Week 3 | 6th Nov | David and Shirley Whitehead |
| Week 4 | 13th Nov | Margaret Davies, Julieann Bodle, Pam |
| Week 5 | 20th Nov | Barbara Bunyan, Audrey Price, Mary Sergeant |
| Week 6 | 27th Nov | Sylvia Brown, Jasmine Humphries, Steve Humphries |
| Week 7 | 4th Dec | Joan Bennett, Bob Bennett, David Williams |

Maureen Fittill

Christ Church Organ Fund



The Medway Band **'Music for Heroes'**

7pm Saturday 19th November

In support of 'Help for Heroes' and 'Christ Church Organ Fund'

Featuring
Music from our Armed Forces, present and past – and music from the movies.

**Tickets available soon – enquiries to
745406,
or medwayband@googlemail.com**

or to Sue Brewer, 352643



Christian Care for Body and Soul

Christmas – it seems a long time to wait. When it comes, what does it mean to you? – Cards, church, carols, lights, trees, food and drink, family and friends, Father Christmas, PRESENTS.

To many people, around the World, Christmas is a day like many others but you can make it a very special day for someone.

How? – Support Christ Church Shoe Box Appeal for Blythwood Care by filling a box with such things as soap, tooth paste.... everyday items that may be commonplace to us but are luxuries to people in places such as Romania, Serbia, Albania and Bulgaria. All completed shoe boxes (ladies size) to be in church by Sunday 19 November. Your shoe box gift will be delivered in time for Christmas.

Veronica Read

God's gifts as epitomised during "Experience Harvest"

JOY

The joy of leading children along the journey.
The joy of hearing the children's excited chatter

GENEROSITY

The generosity of children accepting us, total strangers, as we attempt to set out our ideas
The generosity of donors lending us their precious artefacts

HUMILITY

A difficult one; but the fact that we were enabled to be part of the whole which became the Harvest theme

– And, perhaps, by allowing us to put their ideas before our own (even if theirs might not be what we actually wanted: always difficult!)

PATIENCE

The patience we saw with children when helping others (especially among the younger ones) with tasks; I think especially of boys and weaving!

PEACE

The peace which descended during the final part at the Sukkah
The peace which was present at the Sukkah after the children had left – and the beauty of the matching flowers during the final few days.

COFFEE MORNING

To be held in

Christ Church Hall

Wednesday 26 October

10.45 - 11.45

BRING AND BUY STALL and RAFFLE

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. •

GRAVESHAM ARTS COUNCIL'S
ARTS FESTIVAL

Saturday 12th November

MATINEE SINGERS

with the

GRAVESEND
BOROUGH BAND

perform a

***Concert of
Popular Music***

in St George's Church

Gravesend at 7pm

Tickets £8

call Josie on 01474 363778 or
Christine on 01322 292778.

GRAVESHAM ARTS COUNCIL'S
ARTS FESTIVAL

Friday 4th November

MATINEE SINGERS

present a

***Concert of
Popular Songs***

at St Andrew's Arts Centre

**Royal Pier Road, Gravesend
at 2pm.**

Tickets £3 on the door

Refreshments included

GRAVESHAM ARTS COUNCIL'S ARTS FESTIVAL

Thursday 27 to Saturday 29 October

GEMS (Gravesend Entertainment and Musical Society) present

GODSPELL
THE ROCK MUSICAL

at Gravesend Grammar School for Girls

Pelham Road, DA11 0JE

at 7.45pm.

All tickets £10

Call 07530 231447

My visit to Christ Church

Christopher Heather - age 9

The people at Christ Church looked around 50-79 years old. They look as if they are concentrating very hard on the ten commandments. The ten commandments are prayers I suspect.

The reader stood up and read us the Gospel. We had to stand up to listen to it. The Gospel is the word of God.

When I look around I can see lots of pictures, most of them seem to be women. There are two pictures that are exactly the same. They all have the same kind of face. I expect that this is because they were painted by the same artist.

Now we have to stand up for the Creed. It seems to be also a prayer like the ten commandments. I came to Christ Church on Wednesday morning so it was a special service. It was supposed to be for adults but instead I came to write down some notes.

I can also see a lot of stain glass windows all around the church. There is a huge stain glass window right at the front of the church, behind the altar.

The ancients used to make sacrifices, mostly of animals but sometimes humans!

The patterns on the stain glass windows must have taken ages to make. There are also smaller stain glass windows all around the church walls.

The communion is a way of remembering Jesus by sharing out bread (his body) and wine (his blood).

The ancients did not use the church altar to make sacrifices but they used sacrificial altars instead.

200 Club winners September

1st - No 69 Rita Hunter

2nd - No 32 Liz Hutchinson

3rd - No 7 Keith Knight

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 £3.90 (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.

CHRISTINGLE
At Christ Church

Sunday 4th December at 4pm

a service to pave the way for Christmas
children and families all welcome.

St Andrews Day

Wednesday 30 November

11.00 am Service

At

**St. Andrew's Art Centre
Clarendon Road, Gravesend
*All welcome***

THE "WINTER WARMER WALK"

Monday 27th December

**Circular guided historical walk from Chalk Church to Thong, Shorne
and Ifield**

Meet: 10 am at Chalk Church , Church Lane , Chalk

Guide: Christoph Bull 01474 320156.

Free – donations welcome – Refreshments at Chalk Church Barn afterwards.

Parking at Chalk Church Car Park.

Gravesend Historical Society walk.

CCADS
An Evening of Seasonal
Readings
and a
One Act Play

1st 2nd 3rd December

Tickets £4 for adults £1 for students

Contact Gill Campbell 01474 534517
Tickets available early November

Brand New 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
for their
Christmas
Concert

Tuesday 20 December

At 7.00 pm

Rehearsals at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.30 pm to 7.30 pm

FIRST STEPS

12/10/11

It is time for our First Steps service again and we're going to be thinking about Harvest. Our naughty little sheep and his friends have heard all about Experience Harvest in church and are keen to look around the different displays. It's a cloudy, mild afternoon that finds us in church getting everything ready. Our naughty little sheep and his chums have all found comfortable spots on the displays to hide. Will the children be able to find them? We shall see! We are soon joined by a happy crowd of Mum's (as well as one Dad and two Grannies) and noisy, lively boys and girls and with jingle bells chosen we are ready for our service to begin.

Our first song is "Fish and Bread" remembering the big picnic that Jesus had, when he fed the five thousand. What a miraculous picnic that was, from the harvest of sea and land! Then we all wander around the different Harvest displays and the children are fascinated by a sheep's fleece, and a picture of a magnificent Jacob's sheep (so is our naughty little sheep), sea shells and pebbles from a beach, large sunflower heads, full of seeds, a stripy squash and beautiful tomatoes and flour, ready to make bread. So many things to look at and touch; a wonderful, varied harvest for which to thank God!

Our naughty little sheep and his friends have all been scooped up and we're back in our seats to sing "Share it round" because it's important that we are generous and share some of the good things that we have, with those who haven't got enough. Then, with prayers said and candles out, our service is over and we make our way into the hall. Bonna has brought some banana and chocolate chip muffins to share and our naughty little sheep and his friends are keen to try them. They are scrumptious! We've had a lovely time together and hope that everyone will join us again on 9th November for our next First Steps service.

God Bless.

Rosemary Austin

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 dates are Wednesday 9 November and Wednesday 14 December

A graphic of a rainbow with multiple overlapping bands in shades of grey, arching over the text.

Rainbow 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 pm term time

£1.50 per family

In the hall at Christ Church, Echo Square, Gravesend
www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

HOLY BAPTISM

27th August

Kye Tyler Stapley

4th September

Jakob Elliot Cleaver

Ellissia Angel East-Hickman

Jocey Angel East-Hickman

Millie Corrina Joan Terina Axon

Bailey Darren Dennis Coomber-Aldous

18th September

Louie James Wetherill

Freddie Patrick Gaskin

Isabelle Rose Whitaker

Meghan Katie Lee Love

George Simon John Love

Frankie Jason David Love

2nd October

Oliver Jack Moody

Amélie Jane Rekert

HOLY MATRIMONY

27th August

Daniel Mark Sean Rayner and Lydia Chipango

Lee Michael Parker and Leanne Claire Coaker

Matthew Charles Wylie and Louise Victoria Russell

10th September

Wayne Ashley Vilday and Sarah-Louise Tily

24th September

Joseph William Soton and Gemma Ann Morton

REST IN PEACE

19th July Leonard Gear

6th August Christine Wilson

23rd August Colin Watkins

28th August Elizabeth Wakeman

3rd September Philip George Watson

4th September Marion Hollands

A plea for a tree



It is such a pity when a tree has to have severe surgery for whatever reason but just like us they get old and ill. The cherry tree in the pleasance was diseased and had to be pollarded. Lets hope it will grow again.

I love trees - any trees, tall ones, short ones, evergreen, deciduous, all sorts. Trees enhance the landscape, not just colour it or provide shade in summer or a screen to hide horrible sights or sounds. Trees are protectors of the land, a habitat for wildlife, fresh air for our lungs. Trees are also a thing of grace and beauty to be enjoyed on their own.

So I make a plea. Can we take up the Woodland Trust idea to "Plant a tree for the Jubilee" and plant a new one in the pleasance next year? Not just to celebrate the Queens Jubilee but for us and future generations who will enjoy its splendour and shade and hopefully thank us for thinking of them.

Lesley Harries

Christchurch Christmas Bazaar:

Saturday 5th November 2011 at 10.30a.m..

We are collecting these items for the bazaar on the following Sundays: .

23rd October White elephant & entertainment

(CD's, DVD's, records, tapes, videos)

30th October Children's and Adult's Books & Bottles

5th November(on the day) Cakes and plants and all the above!!



Please remember the deadline for December magazine is

Sunday 13 November



Reflections on A Garden Experience

How many kinds of sweet flowers grow in an English country garden?

Daffodils, Heartsease and Plox
Meadowsweet and Lillies, Stocks
Gentle Lupins, tall Hollyhocks
Roses, Foxgloves, Snowdrops
...Forget-me-nots
In an English country garden

(Ralph McTell)

We saw nearly all of these lovely flowers in our "Garden Safari.

What a wonderful time we had. It mattered not whether the garden was large or small, there was something for everyone.

Seeds were exchanged, tips given and advice dispensed, all this in lovely surroundings with the added bonus of delicious refreshments supplied by gracious hosts.

But it wasn't just about gardens was it?

The chance to meet old friends and new, to catch up with news of families, to discover links between our children and our grandchildren.

To reminisce about "Old Gravesend"

We took that precious commodity TIME and made the most of it.

How we talked!

I thank God daily for my Church and the fellowship that we all enjoy.

In our garden experience we took time to "Stand and Stare"

My grateful thanks for all concerned

CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

We meet Sundays in term-time

5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p. m.

In Christ Church Hall

Admission £1

Autumn Programme 2011

There will be a variety of activities available, including table tennis, snooker, darts, craft and board games plus a tuck shop.

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| 23rd Oct | John/Les/Rachel | Messy Church -Meet at St Aidan's car park @ 4pm. |
| 30th | John/Debbie/Sarah | Ordinary Club Night |
| 6th Nov | Debbie/John/Neil | Ordinary Club Night |
| 13th Nov | Steve/Sheila/Abbie | Ordinary Club Night |
| 20th Nov | Angela/John/Sarah | Ordinary Club / AngelSpace |
| 27th Nov | All leaders | 10 Pin Bowling |
| 4th Dec | | Christingle Service 4pm |

Club Rules

- 1. We will respect one another and Youth Club leaders, and treat one another with courtesy.**
- 2. We will respect the property belonging to the Youth Club and treat it with care.**
- 3. Once at Youth Club, we will remain on the premises until the end of the session; or inform a leader if we wish to go home.**

Arrangements for club outings, and parental permission slips, will be made available about 2 weeks before the outing.

For further details, contact:

**Rev'd Sue Brewer
01474 352643**

ccyouth@blueyonder.co.uk

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

**Sue Brewer
Vicar
Christ Church, Gravesend**

November

Highlights this month !

Saturday 5 Christ Church BAZAAR
Sunday 13 Remembrance Service

Saturday 19 Music for Heroes

| | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| Sunday  | <p>6 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club 5.30 - 7.30 pm</p> | <p>13 8 am Service 10am Remembrance Service 16.00 Service for the bereaved Youth Club 5.30 - 7.30 pm</p> | <p>20 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club 5.30 - 7.30 pm</p> | <p>27 8 am Service 10 am Service 16.00 Service at St Mary, Denton Youth Club 5.30 - 7.30 pm</p> |
| Monday  | <p>7 8 am Service 16.45 Service</p> | <p>14 8 am Service 16.45 Service</p> | <p>21 8 am Service 16.45 Service</p> | <p>28 8 am Service 16.45 Service</p> |
| Tuesday  | <p>1 7 am Service 16.45 Service Cubs</p> | <p>8 7 am Service 16.45 Service Cubs</p> | <p>15 7 am Service 16.45 Service Cubs</p> | <p>22 7 am Service 16.45 Service Cubs</p> |
| Wednesday  | <p>2 10am Service 16.45 Service 19.30 All Souls Day Service 8 pm Mothers Union Guides</p> | <p>9 10am Service 1.45 First Steps 16.45 Service Guides</p> | <p>16 10am service 16.45 Service Guides</p> | <p>23 10am service 16.45 Service Guides</p> |
| Thursday  | <p>3 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice</p> | <p>10 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice</p> | <p>17 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice</p> | <p>24 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice</p> |
| Friday  | <p>4 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service Scouts CCADS Office Hours</p> | <p>11 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service Scouts CCADS Office Hours</p> | <p>18 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service Scouts CCADS Office Hours</p> | <p>25 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service Scouts CCADS Office Hours</p> |
| Saturday  | <p>5 8 am Service 10.30 am BAZAAR</p> | <p>12 8 am Service 9.30 Working Party</p> | <p>19 8 am Service 19.00 Music for Heroes</p> | <p>26 8.00 Service</p> |

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

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| Daily | Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards) |  |
| Monday | Music Group; Brownies |  |
| Tuesday | Cubs | |
| Wednesday | Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday) |  |
| |  First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm | |
| | Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday) | |
| Thursday | Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice | |
| Friday | Scouts; Amateur Dramatics  ; Parent and Toddler | |
| Saturday | Working party (2nd Saturday) |  |
| Sunday | Christ Church Youth Club |  |



**CHRIST CHURCH
BAZAAR**

10.30 A.M.

SATURDAY 5TH NOVEMBER



**stalls
side shows
and
refreshments**

Admission 50p - children free