



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE

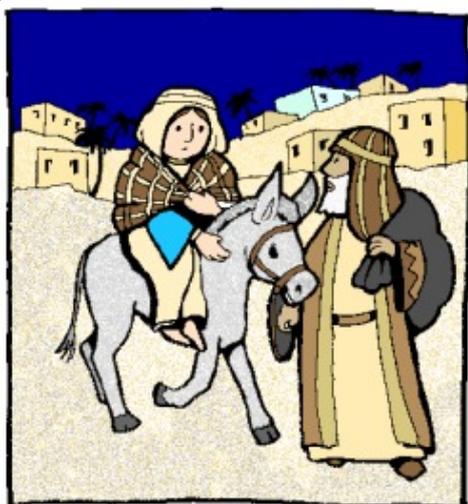


John Hill 2007

December 2011

30p

Or donation



Come and join us over Christmas.

Christmas Eve – 4 p.m. Crib Service

A traditional start to Christmas for children and families. Please bring with you a gift (unwrapped, please) for the children and mums at North Kent Women's Aid.

11.30 p.m. Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

8 am Holy Communion

10 am Holy Communion with Carols.

Deadline for magazine:
 Second Sunday of the
 month prior to publication,
 ie: December 14 for
 January 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



Jasmine Humphries

I have been coming to Christ Church for 33 years. I was born in Ashely Down in August 1952.

The youngest child of William and Violet Beaumont. I had an elder brother Ian. I went to Holy Trinity School, which was located next to Holy Trinity Church at the time. My brother and I were part of the choir.

After Holy Trinity Church closed I joined St James Church Choir and then St Georges Church Choir.

My secondary education took place at St Georges School, Gravesend. After I left school in 1969 I began working in foreign banking. It was here that I met my husband Stephen, who is our current Church Treasurer. In 1981 our first son, Stephen, was born and in 1984 our second son, Andrew, was born.

It was around 1990 that I returned to work as a nursery nurse. I worked for 15 years at St Joseph's Convent Prep. School and since 2007 at Ifield School, Gravesend.

Friends felt that I might be a suitable candidate for pastoral care at Christ Church. After my initial apprehension, I began a 2 year course leading to my authorisation as a Pastoral Assistant at Rochester Cathedral in October 2011.

I feel that my calling is towards the bereaved, and I am hoping to join and become involved in the Bereavement Group within our church.

WORKING PARTY

'In order to save on expensive cleaning and maintenance, we hold a monthly working party on a Saturday morning starting at 9.30am.

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 11.30am.

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 2nd Saturday of each month...

the next one will be on 10th December 2012. See you there, Sue

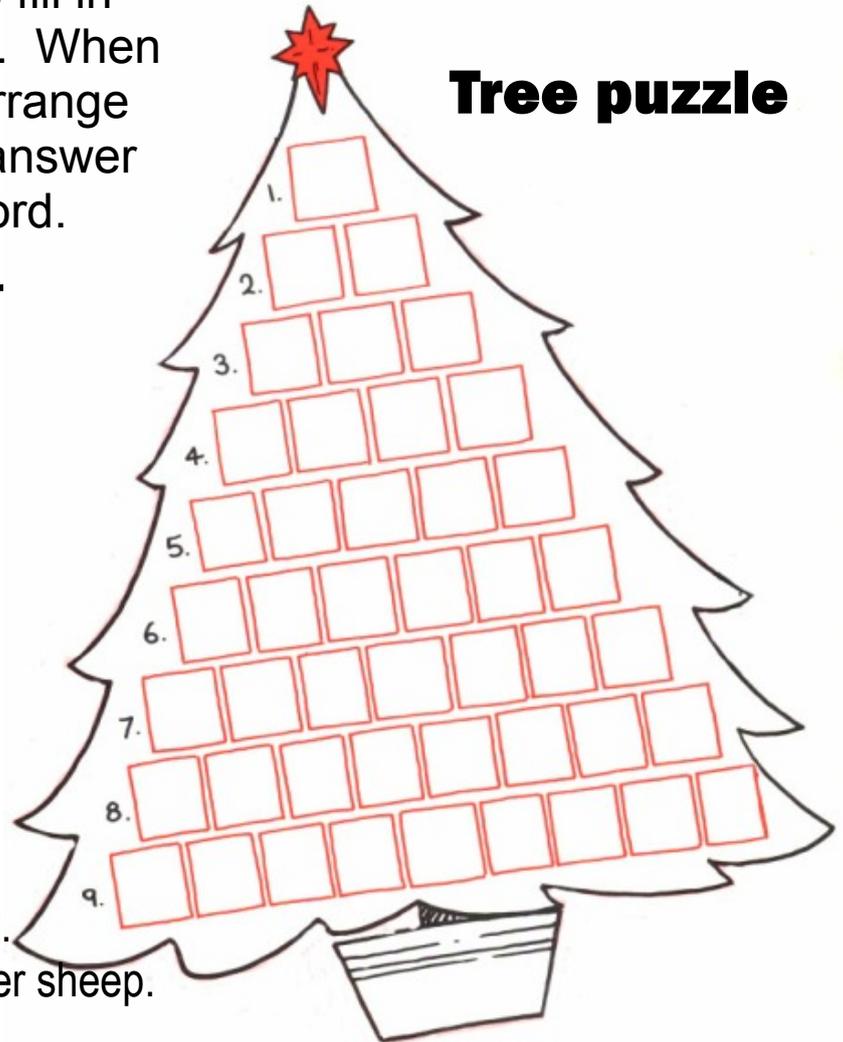


God's Gang

CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

Use the clues below to fill in the spaces on the tree. When you have finished, rearrange the first letter of each answer to make a seasonal word.

Tree puzzle



Clues:

1. The first letter of those who appeared on the hillside.
2. The shepherds hurried .. Bethlehem.
3. No room here.
4. A mother's name.
5. Sing a girl's name.
6. To buy back.
7. The sky was full of angels, Praises to God.
8. One of those who looks after sheep.
9. A cry of praise.

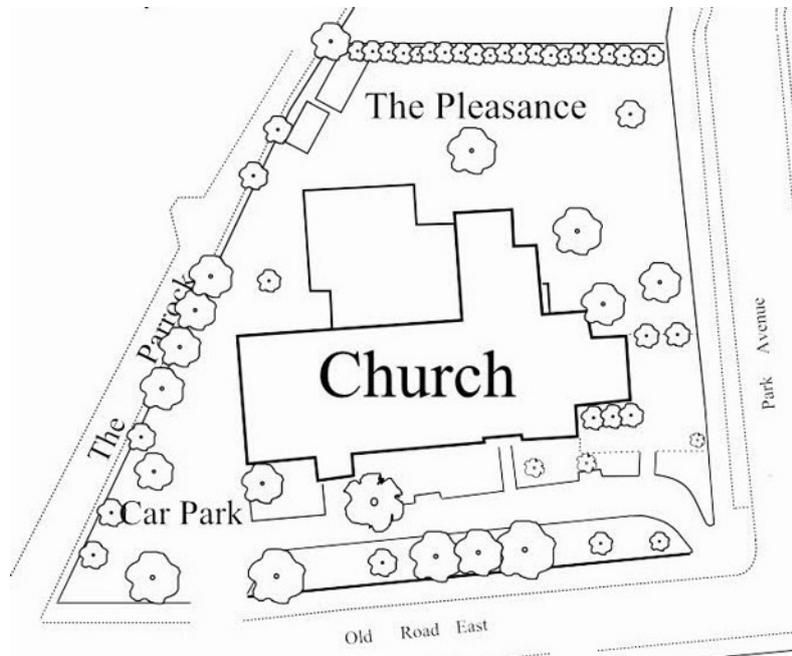
Answers on
page 6

The "Twelve Days of Christmas" gifts: A partridge in a pear tree, two turtledoves, three French hens, four calling birds, five gold rings, six geese laying, seven swans swimming, eight maids milking, nine ladies dancing, ten lords leaping, eleven pipers piping, and twelve drummers drumming. There are 364 gifts altogether, one for everyday of the year.

The poem commonly referred to as "**The Night Before Christmas**" was originally titled "A Visit From Saint Nicholas." This poem was written by Clement Moore for his children and some guests, one of whom anonymously sent the poem to a New York newspaper for publication.

Christ Church Grounds

I share Lesley Harries' sadness at losing a tree, but with help from our gardening group and The Guides we may have an opportunity to add other trees to the church grounds.



At the top of the plan on the left can be seen a row of Cypress trees. These trees are showing signs of fatigue and reaching heights that may become unmanageable.

Could these trees be replaced with a wonderful hedge of indigenous planting which would be colourful, attractive to wildlife and a source of foliage for our flower arrangers.

Let the editor know what you think.

IAN BROWN



Gravesend Street Pastors have been helping people who get into difficulty during a night on the town for some time. Providing a 'spikey', a pair of flip flops or a friendly smile, the Street Pastors are a welcome sight. Can you spare a night to help? People are needed to join the Street Pastors out and about among late night revelers or in the control room, where a prayer may be needed immediately or a call for a taxi. If you think you can offer help do contact Anne Jenkins or speak to a churchwarden for more details.

Anne Jenkins - Gravesend Street Pastors Co-ordinator

Tel: **01474 568498** (Monday & Thursday)

Or **07570 883896*** (leave a message)

Or e-mail gravesend@streetpastors.org.uk

Come and Sing! - Twice !!

This year we are hoping to go out carol singing for an hour or so on 2 separate days:

Friday 16th December

and

Monday 19th December.

Each of these evenings will begin at 7pm and we will follow a short route around 2 or 3 of the care homes in our parish (and a local hostelry!) singing as we go – in each case ending somewhere where warming refreshment will be on offer

Please come and join in – it is great fun and so appreciated (amazingly) by those we sing to.

There will be sign up lists in church during the weeks before.



Answers to Tree Puzzle

1. Angels - A
2. To - T
3. Inn - I
4. Mary - M
5. Carol - C
6. Redeem - R
7. Singing - S
8. Shepherds - S
9. Halleluia - H



CHRISTMAS



AUDREY PRICE

Wishes all the members of Christ Church a very happy and peaceful Christmas & New Year

I am purchasing a herd of goats from Present Aid for Burundi, instead of sending cards.

God Bless you all

Come and join us at Christ Church
for a service combining

Christmas Carols



Seasonal Readings

followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Sunday 18 December

6.30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota



Week 7	4th Dec	Joan Bennett, Bob Bennett, David Williams
Week 8	11th Dec	Colin Parsonson, Linda Parsonson, Anne Thrush
Week 9	18th Dec	Jerry Higgins, Sally Higgins, Ann Lennard
Week 10	25th Dec	Pauline Marks, Margot Edwards, Angela Kirby
Week 11	1st Jan	Rita Smith, Jean Stoddart, Sheila Knight, Ann Lennard

Maureen Fittill

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 NOW

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

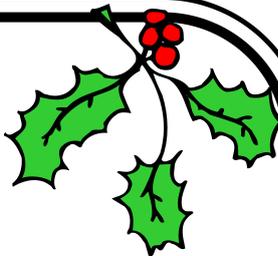
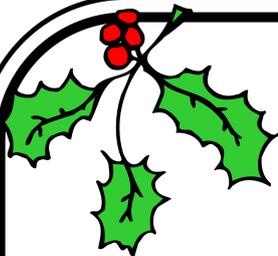
Tuesday 20 December

At 7.00 pm

Rehearsals at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.30 pm to 7.30 pm



EllenorLions Hospices Lights of Love

Christmas time can be a very difficult period for those who have lost loved ones. The EllenorLions Hospices organise services on the first full week of December which give people an opportunity to remember someone who has died.

There are five services each slightly different, some outside and some inside. On some occasions there is an opportunity to light a light in memory of a loved one. Anyone is welcome at these events, if people would like to dedicate a light in memory of a loved one, just obtain a form from one of the hospice shops, **the centre on East Hill Dartford, the Hospice in Northfleet or phone Dartford 01322 221315 and ask for a Lights of Love 2011 form**

**At Christ Church the service will be at
4pm on Sunday 11 December**

The other services are:

Bexley – Saturday 3rd December at 4.00pm

Albany Park Baptist Church, Stanstead Crescent, Bexley DA5 3JB

Northfleet – Sunday December 4th at 4.00pm

**EllenorLions Hospice, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet DA11 7HQ
(this service is outside)**

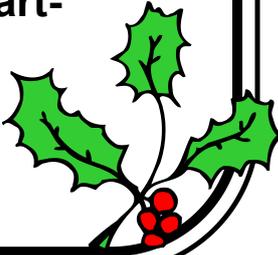
Dartford – Wednesday 7th December at 7.00pm

Spital Street Methodist Church, Spital Street Dartford DA1 2DX

Dartford – Saturday 10th December at 4.00pm

EllenorLions Centre St.Ronans View East Hill Dartford DA1 1AE

(this service is outside)



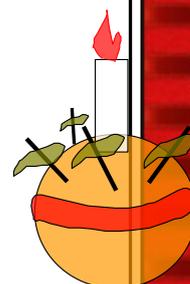
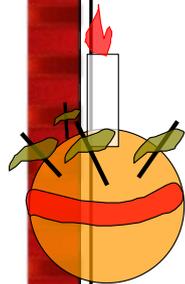
CHRISTINGLE

at Christ Church

Sunday 4 December at 4 pm

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

The meaning of Christingle: the orange represents the world God created, and the sweets all the good things in God's creation. The candle represents Jesus, the light of the world, and the red ribbon the love of Christ for his world



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 26th 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.



The cubs have been to camp

On Friday the 16th of September, 18 intrepid cubs assisted by 4 leaders and 6 parent helpers set off for an action packed weekend of fun in that well known adventure capitol Brentwood, Essex.

We arrived on Friday evening just as the sun was setting and were soon settled into our temporary homes (yes we all slept in tents) after a hike around the campsite in the dark followed by a supper of biscuits and hot chocolate around the camp fire it was time for bed. Sleep was not high on the priority list for the boys and girls but eventually they drifted off,

Saturday morning brought a fresh start we started the day in style with some fun shooting in the cork gun range and found we had a couple of sharp shooters in our midst. Then it was off to the Demolition derby (a fiendish cross between a wrecking ball and a bouncy castle).

After that it was time to rush to the lake and try our hands at kayaking this finished with all the cubs falling into the water. In the afternoon we held pedal car races around the site race track. Followed by a bash at pot holing in their purpose made cave -maze.

After dinner "Bangers Mash and beans" of course we joined the rest of the campsite at the fire circle for a proper old fashioned campfire sing song, finishing the evening as expected with kumbyar. Then after some more hot chocolate it was time for bed this time sleep was quick to follow.

Sunday dawned and the rain of Saturday had cleared up so we could continue with the fun first we tried our hands at rock climbing then we thrilled ourselves with the cresta run (a cross between a bob sleigh and a roller coaster) then after lunch while some of the leaders started to pack away site the cubs and parent helpers became William tell on the archery range. Then just to fill the time whilst waiting for the parents to collect the youngsters we had a go a rodeo riding on the inflatabull.

Now all the work is over the tents are dry and packed away I still don't know who had most fun the cubs or the adults. If this sounds like your sort of weekend why not get in touch we especially need some more adults to come along and join the fun.

Richard painting G.S.L

GEMS (Gravesend Entertainment and Musical Society)

perform a concert of

Christmas songs and carols

at the

**Emmanuel Baptist Church,
Windmill Street, Gravesend**

in aid of the Church building fund

Saturday 17 December at 7.30 pm.

Tickets £6 - contact Josie on 01474 363778
Refreshments available

Gravesend Entertainment and Musical Society

present their

Christmas concert

**Come along and join in
With Christmas carols and songs**

**Chalk Parish Hall
Lower Higham Road, Chalk
Friday 16th December at 7.30 pm.**

Tickets £6 - contact Josie on 01474 363778
Refreshments included

On Saturday 29 October 2011 I attended the C of E conference on 'Shrinking the Footprint', held at Bore Place (the home of Common-work - an environmental charity which puts into practice what it preaches).

Bore Place is not the easiest of places to get to, as most of the delegates said as they got out of their cars, yes most had driven to an environmental conference. The first thing that greets you is the aroma of the organic farm and then the cheerful smile of those managing the car park.

The conference was held in the newly refurbished Model Farm Buildings acquired in 1976 by a husband and wife team whose aim was to promote sustainable living. Since 1976 the farm has become fully organic and has developed into a place for people, especially young people, to learn and practice a sustainable living style.

The aim of the conference was to raise awareness about how our carbon footprint (that is the amount of CO₂ gas produced by our style of living) should be reduced both as individuals and as a church.

During the morning session talks were presented by a variety of people and organisations including CPRE Protect Kent (Council for the Protection of Rural England), who are supporting the residents of Meopham in their campaign to stop the building of too many houses; Professor Sam Berry who spoke about the Theology in the Bible and its relevance to the environment, and an inspirational talk by Ruth Valerio. Ruth is a writer and environmental activist (or as she describes herself a Christian) living in Chichester. What did I glean from the morning – the speakers were advocating installing solar panels on church roofs, though this was disputed by some who suggested that we should be using less energy and not looking for ways to generate more, Ruth took a more practical line and suggested things like garden share, baskets for vegetables etc. in church porches, and I was nearly persuaded that nuclear power is an environmentally friendly power generating source. Following a wonderful lunch mainly sourced from Bore Place we were given a guided tour around the farm. We saw an organic vegetable plot successfully using permaculture methods which was still full of vegetables for winter use and then had a brief talk on how they had used environmentally friendly building methods to convert the buildings, and visited the wood pellet boilers (something to think about for Christ Church).

The day finished with group work to get us in a mood to produce an action plan, which was photocopied and will be used as a basis for future discussion. The three points on my action plan were: a) Investigating alternatives to the existing gas and oil boilers b) improving The Pleasance, planting trees and investigating rain water harvesting c) investigating the possibility of installing solar panels on the church roof. The day was about looking to the future and how the Church should tackle climate change, but in the meantime I hope with you to look at smaller manageable ways that we can become "Greener" at Christ Church.

Ian Brown

December

Highlights this month !

Sunday 4 Christingle

Sunday 11 EllenorLions Hospice Service

Sunday 24 Crib Service 4 pm

Sunday 	4 8 am Service 10am Service 16.00 Christingle Service Youth Club 5.30 - 7.30 pm	11 8 am Service 10am Service 16.00 Ellenor Hospice Lights of Love Service Youth Club 5.30 - 7.30 pm	18 8 am Service 10 am Service 18.30 Service of Lessons and Carols	25 8 am Service 10 am Service
Monday 	5 8 am Service 16.45 Service	12 8 am Service 16.45 Service	19 8 am Service 16.45 Service	26
Tuesday 	6 7 am Service 16.45 Service Cubs	13 7 am Service 16.45 Service Cubs	20 7 am Service 16.45 Service 19.00 Semiquavers Concert	27
Wednesday 	7 10am Service 16.45 Service 20.00 Mothers' Union Christmas Social	14 10am service 13.15 First Steps 16.45 Service	21 10am service 16.45 Service	28 10am service
Thursday 	1 7am Service 16.45 Service 19.30 CCADS Amateur Dramatic Production	8 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice	15 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice	22 7am Service 16.45 Service Brownies Beavers Choir Practice
Friday 	2 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service 18.30 Office Hours 19.30 CCADS Production	9 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service 18.30 Office Hours	16 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service 19.00 Come and Sing- Carol singing around the Parish	23 13.45 Parent & Toddler 16.45 Service
Saturday 	3 8 am Service 19.30 CCADS Production	10 8 am Service 9.30 Working Party	17 8 am Service	24 8.00 Service 16.00 Crib Service 23.30 Midnight Mass

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**

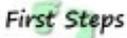
Registered Charity no. 1130741

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	
2 - 3.30	Forgetmenot Singing 2nd & 4th Thurs afternoon	
Friday	Scouts; Amateur Dramatics  ; Parent and Toddler	
Saturday	Working party (2nd Saturday)	 



semi quavers
Our 1st Christmas Concert!

Join us to celebrate our new choir with Christmas carols, anthems, a touch of Disney magic and a mince pie!

**Christchurch,
Old Road East, Gravesend
Tuesday 20 December 7pm**

£3 for adults, children FREE

**call the box office
01474 534517**