



CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



JANUARY 2014

Donation or **40p**

Highlights for the month

Saturday 11 First working party of 2014

Saturday 11 Quiz evening 19.00 for 19.30 start

Sunday 12 Choral Evensong 16.45

Thursday 16 Mustard Seed 15.00 all welcome

Scan the smart code below to go to our web site



IN REVIEW available at <http://www.churchofengland.org>

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday **19 January** for February Copy: email to ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

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Christ Church Hall is available for hire
Contact Rachel Pace
01474 249508 or 07960 024917
Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and childrens parties

Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Curate	Jo Drew	364367
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	392713
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden	Ian Brown	356339
PCC Secretary	Linda Riordan	746988
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	392713
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Archbishop speaks at Church Urban Fund conference

Archbishop Justin has said that Christians cannot escape participating in politics because seeking justice and the common good are ‘absolutely central’ to their faith.

In a keynote address to the Church Urban Fund’s ‘Tackling Poverty Together Conference’, the Archbishop said that for Christians, loving our neighbour places ‘responsibilities’ upon us.

‘We don’t speak about common good and justice because we think we have some automatic right to be heard,’ he said, ‘but because loving our neighbour places responsibilities upon us. We have responsi-

bilities to speak, even when it might be easier to stay quiet, to point to injustice and to challenge others to join us in righting it.

The Archbishop praised the Church Urban Fund (cuf.org.uk) for its ‘focus on delivering projects through local partnerships, [which] cuts through one of the great political challenges of the present day – how one actually makes a difference on the ground’.

More at:

www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5181/seeking-justice-is-absolutely-central-to-christian-faith-says-archbishop

Church ministry playing vital role in every community

Ministry stats for 2012, published by the Research and Statistics Division of the Archbishops’ Council, show a change in patterns of ministry over the past 10 years with numbers remaining largely constant. The overall number of diocesan licensed clergy declined by 1% in the decade between 2002 and 2012. The

number of full-time stipendiary clergy was 7,798 in 2012, a fall of 2% since 2011.

They now represent 69% of all licensed clergy compared to 80% in 2002. Over the same period the number of self-supporting ministers increased by 50% from 2,091 in 2002 to 3,148.

The number of ordinations has remained broadly stable since 2002. In 2012 22% of recommended candidates were under the age of 30, compared to 15% in both 2002 and 2007. This reflects a focus in the dioceses on encouraging vocations among younger people.

First Steps

FIRST STEPS

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 date is Wednesday 12 January.



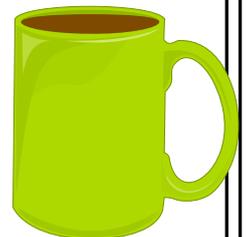
Have you had a look on the Traidcraft table recently?

There are a number of Christmas related items on the Traidcraft stall, if you wish to order any of these please use the forms provided or speak to John Hill

We have some new items for sale. You might see something that takes your fancy.

If there is something you would like to try but is not on the table have a word with John Hill

COFFEE ROYA 2014



- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 5 th Jan | Vena Croydon, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson |
| 12 th Jan | Sandy Barden, Kay Page, Susan Wilkins |
| 19 th Jan | Julieann Bodle, Angela Kirby, David/ Martin |
| 26 th Jan | Margaret Davies, Anthony Davies, Dorothy Oliver |



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



FIRST STEPS

11TH DECEMBER 2013
CHRISTMAS

Our naughty little sheep is up bright and early this morning because he knows that we're going to be telling the story of the Nativity at our First Steps service this afternoon and this story of Jesus' birth is his very favourite. He's really excited but also a bit apprehensive because it's foggy this morning and you know how anxious he gets about the weather! The sun has finally got rid of the fog by the time he and I and a crowd of his friends make our way up to church. Hooray! Our naughty little sheep's friends make themselves comfortable at the front of the church while everything is prepared for our service. Mum Alison, along with Abbie and James, arrives a bit early so they keep us company until it's time to officially open the doors. Suzanne comes in with new baby Luke, fast asleep in his buggy. He's not quite three weeks old, so very newly hatched. Others follow and soon it is time for our service to begin. With our naughty little sheep standing very quietly on our altar we sing "Candle time" as I light the candles.

Some of the boys and girls help me to tell the story of Jesus' Nativity, by bringing up the major players for me to put onto our altar. First we have Joseph and Mary, very tired after their long and difficult journey. Then the Inn Keeper comes on the scene, apologising because there's no room in his Inn. In fact the whole of Bethlehem is full to bursting! Luckily he remembers the cow shed at the back and he directs Mary and Joseph there. Well at least they'll be sheltered and dry! Our naughty little sheep and his friends are listening with bated breath to find out what happens next. And of course then Jesus is born, so he joins our little crowd. It's time for the shepherds to arrive with their

sheep and they tell a wonderful tale of a sky full of bright light and angels telling them of this very special birth. And hot on their heels come three kings with their precious gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They are all tired and dusty because they've been following a wonderful star a very long way. They knew that it heralded the birth of a heavenly king.

My helpers have all been very good bringing up the figures to help me tell this wonderful story. We never get tired of hearing it, do we? And as our story has unfolded we have sung about a twinkling star, a baby in a manger, sleeping sweetly and we couldn't miss out "Jingle Bells" could we? Our naughty little sheep tells me that the Jesus is God's wonderful gift to us and we must never forget how very blessed we all are. And his friends all nod their heads in agreement. So we say our prayers, quietly thanking God for His love for us and for His coming alongside us in Jesus; for all the joy that is ours through Him, now at this holy season of Christmas and every other day too.

Then, with our service over we all go out into the Hall to enjoy some special Christmas nibbles; mince pies and iced cakes; shortbread biscuits and chocolate rolls. Yum! As usual our naughty little sheep and his friends are at the front of the queue. They'll all be on a diet in January! We've had a lovely time together and I hope that everyone will come and join us again as we take our First Steps into 2014! (8th January) Everyone has sung beautifully and jingled up a storm and do you know what? That baby Luke is still fast asleep! Mum Suzanne is making the most of it. It won't last! Our naughty little sheep, his friends and I wish you all a happy, healthy and blessed New Year!

God Bless Rosemary Austin





His Worship the Mayor Councillor Derek Sales and Mayoress Pam Sales attended the annual St Andrew's Day service on 30th November 2013. The choir of Christ Church, Milton next Gravesend and St Aidan's led the singing, and the congregation were joined by members of The Merchant Navy Gravesend Branch, Gravesham and Ebbsfleet Royal British Legion, Royal Marines Association Gravesend and Maritime Volunteer Service Lower Thames Division. Major Pat Carton of the Salvation Army delivered a message.





HOLY BAPTISM

- 20th October Zane Jackson Newman
Tyler-James Andrew Stewart
Ruby Leigh Laverty
Sophie Louise Wilkins
Anna-Grace Edna Rayleigh Strutt
- 3rd November Sevé Arthur Young
Maisie Ann Fewell
Amelie Rose Reason
- 17th November Sienna Ruby Henry
Poppy Mae D’Cunha
Samantha Carole-Ann Hartley
Kiya-Jade Ludlow
- 1st December Courtney Louise Fridd
Phoebe Ellen Beatrice Maude
Bo Sophia Atkinson
Lara Louise Codling
- 22nd December Willow Scarlett Antonia Collings

REST IN PEACE

- 18th October Joan Dixon
- 31st October Janet Tennyson
- 3rd November Paul Seymour
- 1st December James Ratcliff

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 £4.00 (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.



Carol singing in church and in the community raising contributions for good causes



Fullness of Life

The apostle John tells us that Jesus came so that we may have 'fullness of life' (John 10: 10).• Throughout the gospels we hear of Jesus's concern for the poor and the oppressed. • It is following Jesus's example that The Leprosy Mission works to not only treat people with leprosy, but take an holistic approach to their life, helping to lift them from poverty.

Leprosy-affected people face a triple blow of disease, disability and discrimination. • Simply treating a person's leprosy does not change the fact they remain living in poverty. • Due to disabilities incurred as a result of the late treatment of the disease and age old stigma sur-



rounding leprosy, earning a living often seems an impossible dream. Without a helping hand these people, so loved by God, can be reduced to begging in order to survive.

The good news is that, thanks to your generosity, The Leprosy Mission can offer people affected by leprosy gifts of reconstructive surgery, sight-saving eye surgery, housing, a fresh water supply, schooling for their children, job training and help to start a business.

In other words, everything needed to restore their dignity and enable them to be self-sufficient.

On Sunday 26 January - World Leprosy Day 2014 - please pray for the three million people globally with irreversible disabilities as a result of the late treatment of leprosy. • And, if you can, please give a gift of hope so that The Leprosy Mission England and Wales can continue its life-changing work in 11 countries across Asia and Africa.

For more information ring

01733 370505

www.worldleprosyday.org.uk



Enjoy the latest films in a convenient and friendly setting which includes:

SOFT LIGHTING IN AUDITORIUM

LOWERED VOLUME

NO TRAILERS

2D FILMS

Every second Sunday of the month at 10.00 a.m.

Ask at the box office of Showcase Cinemas or check the website showcasecinemas.co.uk for more details and film information

Monthly WORKING PARTY

'In order to save on expensive cleaning and maintenance, we hold a monthly working party on a Saturday morning starting at 09.30.

Together we clean and tidy the church, do a bit of necessary DIY or gardening, have a coffee and often some home-made goodies – and finish by about 11.30.

We are enormously grateful to the few loyal helpers who turn up month after month – but we desperately need a few more.

Please consider putting the dates into your diary and coming along. All are welcome – if you can do basic DIY please let us know in advance so that the churchwardens can plan jobs in advance.

Working party is almost always on the 2nd Saturday of each month...

NOTE the next one will be on 11 January at 9.30.

See you there, **Sue**

Archbishop of York Visits Egypt

The Archbishop of York has spent five days visiting the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Bishop Mouneer Anis invited the Archbishop to preach at the services for the 75th Anniversary of All Saints Cathedral, Cairo during November. All Saints Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese and is located at the centre of a city of 26 million people, in Zamalek.

Speaking about his visit the Archbishop said: "All Saints Cathedral is an amazing place, and the prayers for the 75th anniversary celebrations gave such a great sense of the Holy Spirit moving in the Diocese."

Just a reminder re Active Kids Vouchers

The congregations contributions helped enormously. We bought a tandem bike, cd players and streamers.

We would to get another camera but would need 5,000 vouchers



So thanking
you all for
your help.
Sue x

GRAVESHAM FOOD BANK

Many thanks to those who support the food bank.

Below is a list of items required at the moment

Milk (UHT) - Custard
Toothpaste - Hot chocolate
Shampoo - Sweets/treats
Breakfast cereal (not porridge) - Marmite
Fruit juice/squash - Toilet roll
Sponge pudding - Deodorant
Tinned potatoes - Laundry liquid/tablets

This list is only a few of the items that can help those less fortunate than ourselves, any tinned or non-perishable items are most welcome

CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

Youth activities for all young people—
School Yrs 7—11.

**Regular meetings will be between 4.00-5.30pm
at the 'Word on the Street' house, 7 Warrior Avenue,
Gravesend DA12 5NA.**

For more information contact:

Lusa 01474 352500

lusansenga@googlemail.com

Sue 01474 352643

suec@brewer86.plus.com

Richard 01474 249792

ramartin@talktalk.net

Jo 01474 364367

revjodrew@btinternet.com



THE MUSTARD SEED

THE Mustard Seed aims to provide an informal and friendly tea at 3.00 pm on the third Thursday of every month in Christ Church hall.

It is a venture that offers the opportunity to meet new friends and reminisce about old times.

The Mustard Seed, as the parable says (Mark4; 3-32) is very small - like dust - but has the potential to develop into one of the largest plants.

Please join us as we plant the Mustard Seed and assist to make it flourish.

Who knows what may happen!

The Mustard Seed is in its second year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 16 January**. You are so welcome.

For further details please contact any member of the pastoral care team. Pastoral assistants Pam Kilby, Colin Parsonson, Jasmine Humphries or Curate Jo Drew

HEART OF GRAVESEND HISTORICAL TOUR

Come and discover something at the heart of Gravesend about its history and secrets. The tour is a short walk along King Street and then inside the County Court building (now The Grand Healthy Living Centre) seeing the restored and unrestored interior and discover its origins. There is•• the opportunity to have refreshments and lunch at the Bench Café at •The Grand afterwards.

Tuesday 4th February 2014

11am outside Gravesend Library, Windmill Street

Guide: Christoph Bull (Local Historian)

Cost: £3 per person – no need to book just turn up.

The event is part of the Six Ways to Well-Being Week programme.

Information: Christoph Bull 07702287147 or

Carl Webster-Dowsing• at The Grand on 01474 320123.

Exciting 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


New youth choir in Gravesend

We meet weekly for Rehearsals

at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.15 pm to 7.30 pm



Just a small selection of the congregation that enjoyed an afternoon at the Mustard Seed and over 80s pre-Christmas gathering



Alzheimers & Dementia

SUPPORT SERVICES

Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services, based in Northfleet is a local charity for local people and here to offer help, advice and support to those living with Dementia. We can offer help in a numbers of ways:-

- v **Day care,**
- v **Befriending**
- v **Support at Home/Support at Home plus/One to One Support**
- v **Carers Support Groups**
- v **24 Helpline (0800 500 3014)**
- v **Singing for Brain**
- v **Dementia Cafes..... and so much more.**

If you or someone you knows need help please contact us via our website, www.ald-dem.org, or by telephoning us on 01474 325133 or by writing to **Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services, The Basement, Dene Holm House, Dene Holm Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8JY.**

As with most charities nowadays we also need volunteers to help us. We have volunteer vacancies in all the above areas and of course in our fundraising efforts. If you would like to support us by becoming a member or raising funds for us, in sponsorship, holding an event, coffee morning or whatever you feel is appropriate, please do let us know and contact us.

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.



December began with the highly successful table top sale to raise money for charities supported by Christ Church





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



This page and the next three pages show just a few aspects of the church decorations for Christmas, and two young members of the Semiquavers reading during part of the carol service





Displays for Advent that could be seen around the Church leading up to Christmas







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

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)	
Monday	Music Group; Brownies	
Tuesday	Cubs and Semiquavers	
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:	
3.00 p.m.	Mustard Seed (every third)	
2 - 3.30	Forgetmenot Singing 2nd & 4th Thurs afternoon	
Friday	Scouts; Parent and Toddler	
Saturday	Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)	

CALENDAR JANUARY 2014

Sunday 	5 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	12 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.45 Choral Even- song	19 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	26 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday 	6 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	13 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	20 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	27 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES
Tuesday 	7 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	14 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	21 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	28 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers
Wednesday 1 10.00 Service 	8 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 16.45 Service	15 10.00 Service 16.45 Service	22 10.00 Service 16.45 Service	29 10.00 Service 16.45 Service
Thursday 2 	9 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	16 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	23 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	30 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice
Friday 3 	10 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	17 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	24 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	31 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS
Saturday 4 	11 08.00 Service 09.30 Working Party	18 08.00 Service	25 08.00 Service	



Soroptimist International of Gravesend & District

Quiz Evening

A Fun Evening on Saturday 11th January 2014 7.00
for 7.30 p.m. Prompt Start.
At Christ Church Hall, Old Road East, Gravesend.

Teams -
Maximum
6 in each

Proceeds
to support our Link Club
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Bring your own
Snacks and
Drinks

£5.00 entry per person

Raffle

Admission by Ticket only

✂.....
Soroptimist International Gravesend & District – Annual Quiz – Saturday 11th January 2014

Please let Sheila Knight know how many Tickets are required (Admission by Ticket only)

Contact Name Tel No.....

Total Number attending Return

to Sheila Knight, by 3rd January to 2 The Downage, GRAVESEND Kent, DA11 7NB

Tel/fax 01474 564234 E-mail sknight01@hotmail.co.uk

**PLEASE INCLUDE A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AS TICKETS MUST BE BOOKED
IN ADVANCE — SEATING IS LIMITED**