



CHRIST CHURCH

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



APRIL 2014

Donation or **40p**

Highlights for the month

Saturday 12 Working party 09.30

Sunday 13 PALM SUNDAY service 10.00

Thursday 17 Maundy Thursday Service 19.00

Friday 18 Good Friday hot cross bun service 10.00

Sunday 20 EASTER DAY service 10.00

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 20 **April** for May.
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

Food and Fasting

There seems to me to be a distinct focus on food and fasting this Lent. Our ecumenical Lent course book, and novel, 'Chocolat' explores a range of relational themes including temptation, sin, domestic violence, the manipulation of power, and the inclusion or exclusion of strangers. All wrapped up in chocolate and bound up within the life of a community in a French village.

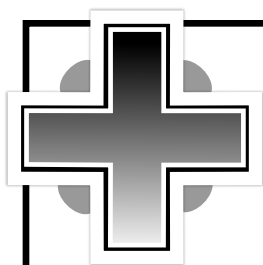
This has prompted me to revisit the last two years that I have been involved in the Gravesham Foodbank. One of the most important aspects of the Foodbank is the initial welcome that the person receives as they enter the building so often apprehensive, and sometimes defensive, because they have been driven to a crisis point in their lives. To rely on the generosity of others because, quite simply, they cannot afford to put food on the table.

Conversations have revealed a range of complex issues. One lady came in on

behalf of her friend who was so mortified with her desperate situation that she could not bear to face the Foodbank volunteers. Another was bruised and battered. Another made redundant and frightened that he would lose his home. Another lost her job because of ill health, and another a refugee - a stranger in exile, each with their own unique story. Not characters in a novel but a human being in need which led me to reflect further on the impact of hunger and food, its availability or not. It prompted me to record what I ate in one day, and to cost it out. The following day to eat sparingly and put the money 'saved' aside for Lent giving.

God has blessed me abundantly. 1 in 5 people in this country live below the breadline. Food may not be on their table. So, perhaps, this Lent, it may be timely to provide for a stranger with a giving heart and generous hospitality.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me... [Matthew 25:35](#)



This year's LENT COURSES

Are being held on Wednesday's throughout Lent everyone is welcome and they continue into April

Wednesday 2 April 14.00 CHRIST CHURCH

Wednesday 2 April 19.30 CHRIST CHURCH

Wednesday 9 April 14.00 ST AIDANS CHURCH

Wednesday 9 April 19.30 ST AIDANS CHURCH

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 9 April.



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

30th Mar Vena Croydon, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson

6th Apr Sandy Barden, Jenny Shoesmith, Dorothy Oliver

13th Apr Julieann Bodle, Angela Kirby, David/ Martin

20th Apr Margaret Davies, Anthony Davies, Jill Godwin

27th Apr Barbara Bunyan, Audrey Price, Bianca Mcarther



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



FIRST STEPS

12TH MARCH 2014
SPRING IS COMING!

After a slightly grey start to the day the sunshine has broken through and our naughty little sheep is really pleased and excited. As usual he has been worrying about First Steps and whether the weather is going to be nice. But then he begins to worry that the weather might be too nice and everyone will have other plans; maybe going to the park for a picnic or to the seaside for a paddle. Oh he is a worrier!

It's such a lovely day as our naughty little sheep, his friends and I walk up to church. They're skipping up the road for the sheer joy of it! It is so nice to see. There are daffodils and pansies in the flower bed and lovely pink and blue hyacinths around the wrought iron fence and they all look so beautiful in the sunshine! It makes us feel glad to be alive. It seems that Spring is really here. Hooray!

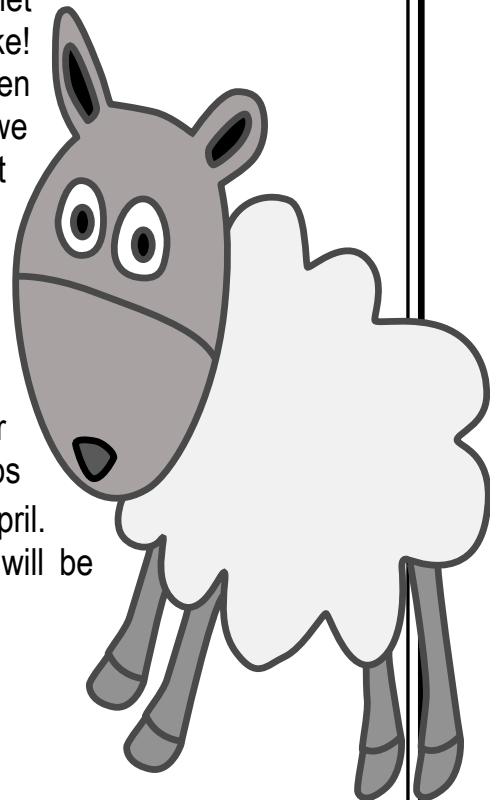
Once in the church those funny animals decide that they're not going to hide. They all want to sit at the front of the church so that they can watch the children, and join in with their singing. They can't do that if they're hiding, can they? With everything set up and ready the first to arrive is Freya, closely followed by Mum Kelly and little sister Megan. Poor Megan is a bit bleary eyed because she's been woken up specially so that they can join us. Well it's lovely to see them all and our naughty little sheep is very relieved! Soon others follow and our service begins.

Today we are thinking about the coming of the spring and we can see it bursting into life all around us. We have special happy candles to light because Riley has just had a new baby sister named Milly Kate. And Thomas tells me that it's his Mum Julie's birthday today. It's so

nice to have happy occasions to celebrate! We sing about the beauty of the seasons, about frogs, worms and noisy children with lots of jingling of bells to prove it. We sing about the sun and the rain and going to the park and we talk about yummy food for picnics. We thank God for His love for us and for our beautiful world; for His gift of life, for the love of family and friends and happy times together. We should never take any of it for granted but get the best that we can out of every day. Our naughty little sheep and his best friend the sparkly dragon are sitting quietly on our altar, avoiding the temptation to blow out the candles. Our naughty little sheep's friends are singing away behind me, just like a choir. Isn't that great?

When our prayers have been said, Riley and Thomas come up to blow out those happy candles and our service is over. It's time to go into the hall for playtime, a cuppa and a chat. Julie's mother-in-law Anne has made her a birthday cake and we can all have a piece, too. How nice! Strangely our naughty little sheep and friends have decided to stay quietly in the church, so I don't let on about the cake! They may have given it up for Lent and we don't want to tempt them! As usual we've all had a lovely time together and very much hope that everyone will join us again for our next First Steps service on 9th April. Hopefully the sun will be shining then, too.

God Bless
Rosemary Austin



HOLY WEEK

Monday 14 April at 7.30 pm Holy Family
Holy Communion & Meditation

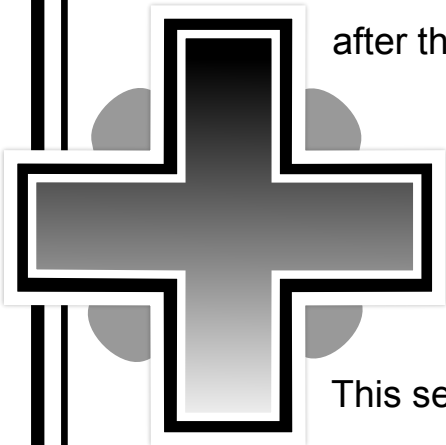
Tuesday 15 April at 7.30 pm St. Aidan's
Meditation on the Stations of the Cross

Wednesday 16 April at 10 am Christ Church
Holy Communion

Wednesday 16 April at 8 pm St. Mary's
A Most amazing Man— Meditation with Music

Maundy Thursday 17 April at 7.30 pm Christ Church
Informal Holy Communion
after this service the church will be open for prayer until 10 pm

Good Friday 18 April at 10 am
Hot Cross Bun Service for families and children
Good Friday 18 April at 12.00—3 pm
The Colours of the Cross
This service is in half hour sections, so that you can arrive and leave as you please.



EASTER DAY **Sunday 20 April at CHRIST CHURCH**

5.30 AM DAWN SERVICE OF LIGHT
followed by breakfast
8 AM HOLY COMMUNION
10 AM HOLY COMMUNION
6.30 PM FESTAL EVENSONG



Sue is away for a while, Jo and Jacqueline are on hand

As many of you are aware, Sue is away for three months this Spring. This is a time of refreshment, learning and renewal known as 'EMDL' – Extended Ministry Development Leave – which is available to clergy who have been in full-time ministry more than 10 years, and who are not close to retirement. Sue's EMDL began on Sunday 9th March, and she will be back in post on Friday 13th June. During her EMDL she will be looking at two areas of ministry... spirituality and

leadership; as well as taking an opportunity to experience other churches and bring that experience back to share at Christ Church. The EMDL period will end with a study tour in the Holy Land. She will be keeping a journal of her reflections and looks forward to sharing it with us all on her return.

While Sue is away, the parish is in the safe hands of Revs Jo Drew and Jacqueline Littlewood, the Churchwardens and the Ministry Team.

A child's prayer Overheard

Self-preservation lay at the heart of one little penitent's request...

..."And, God, please make Bobby stop throwing stones at me. By the way, Lord, I've mentioned this before."

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

OASIS BOOKSHOP

Emmanuel Baptist Church

Windmill St Gravesend

01474 568498

oasisebc@hotmail.com

Come and browse

Mon-Fri 10.00 - 14.00

Saturday 10.00 - 13.00

**BOOKS AND CARDS * MUSIC *
DVDs**

JEWELLERY * ORNAMENTS

Snippets from life

MANY children seem to feel on very easy terms with the Lord and show a touching concern for His well being...like the little girl who was overheard confiding in her evening prayers: "Please bless and take care of mummy and daddy and my little brother, Alex, and please God, do take care of yourself. Because if anything happens to you, we're sunk.

* * * *

CHILDREN are also free of nagging scruples about asking for things they want.

One five year-old insisted on varying the Lord's prayer by saying: "Give us this day our daily oranges". When corrected and told to say "bread" his answer was: "No, I've got plenty of bread. What I want is oranges".

Sponsor a

LILY for EASTER

Following the successful initiative of the last two years, you are offered the opportunity to sponsor a lily in memory of a love one, or someone that means something special to you, this Easter

A list of those being remembered or that special someone will be placed near the Book of Remembrance and published in the magazine

As a guide, lilies cost about £3 each

Any donations towards Easter flowers are also welcome

See Janice Stevens to give the names to be remembered and also your donations

Joint prayer initiative between CofE and Catholic Church

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster have launched a joint initiative this Lent to encourage people to pray for the work churches do to support people in need in their parishes and beyond.

From Passion Sunday on 6 April to Palm Sunday on 13 April, Archbishop Justin and Cardinal Nichols will give thanks to God daily for this essential act of service, and pray for his blessing on the work of the churches.

If you would like to join Archbishop Justin and Cardinal Nichols by committing to prayer, you will find daily resources from April 6th - April 13th on both www.archbishopofcanterbury.org. Simple printable prayer resources will also be available.

Throughout the week people will be encouraged to tweet about how churches are helping those in need in their local area using the hashtag #ListenToGod.

* * * *

Chemin Neuf community comes to Lambeth Palace

In a ceremony with guests from Roman Catholic, Anglican and Lutheran churches, Archbishop Justin welcomed four

members of an international ecumenical community to Lambeth Palace in a ‘radical and exciting step’ for Christian unity. The Archbishop of Canterbury received four members of the international ecumenical foundation Chemin Neuf to live as a praying community at Lambeth Palace.

The community, who have been invited to live at Lambeth Palace by the Archbishop, are a married Anglican couple, Ione and Alan Morley-Fletcher; a Lutheran training for ministry, Oliver Matri; and a Roman Catholic consecrated sister, Ula Michlowicz.

Together they will share in the daily round of prayer that underpins the Archbishop’s ministry, and further the ecumenical and international dimensions of his work; supporting the first of three priority areas for Archbishop Justin’s ministry over the coming years, the renewal of prayer and the religious life within the Church.

* * * *

Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme

Parishes are open to apply to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for a grant against the VAT incurred in making repairs and alterations to listed church buildings. These include fabric repairs, professional fees, bells, clocks and organs.

Further information can be found at: www.lpwscheme.org.uk



Can you help with things for the pre-school activities

We are short of buttons, corks and shells. The children love playing with these and they are great for craft activities and for sorting and counting, so if people can collect these again that would be great.

We are also collecting Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's. The number we collected last year helped

to buy gardening equipment and a camera.

So thanking you all for your help.
Sue x



A LENTEN FEAST

FAST from criticism
and FEAST on praise
Fast from self-pity
and FEAST on joy
FAST from ill-temper
and FEAST on peace
FAST from resentment
and FEAST on contentment
Fast from jealousy
and FEAST on love
FAST from pride
and FEAST on humility
FAST from selfishness
and FEAST on service
FAST from fear
and FEAST on faith



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**Spring Council
and Market Place**

What's New in Mother's Union

26 APRIL 09.30 - 14.30

St Columbus School, Bexleyheath



Confirmation at Christ Church

Each year at Christ Church a number of people who are new to faith, or who feel ready to make a fresh commitment of faith, decide to be Confirmed or to Renew their Baptismal Vows.

Confirmation in the Church of England marks the point of the Christian journey at which those who have been baptised affirm their faith for themselves.



Gravesend & District Osteoporosis Support Group



You are invited to

**Afternoon Tea with
Live Musical Entertainment**
Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014
at 2.30 p.m.

at Christ Church Hall
Old Road East, Gravesend
DA12 1NR



Admission Adults £3.00
(free for accompanied children)

**To make sure there are enough cakes please
return the slip below.**

**Please contact Sheila on
01474 564234 for more
details**



✂.....
Gravesend & District Osteoporosis Support Group – Afternoon Tea – Monday 5th May 2014

To make sure that there are enough cakes, please let Sheila Knight know how many are coming:

Contact Name Tel No.....

Total Number attending: Adults..... Children.....

Please return to Sheila Knight, by 25th April to 2 The Downage, GRAVESEND Kent, DA11 7NB
Tel/fax 01474 564234 E-mail sknight01@hotmail.co.uk

Renewal of Baptismal Vows allows those who have already been confirmed to make a fresh commitment of faith – this may be appropriate for all sorts of reasons: perhaps you wandered away from faith for a bit, and are ready to return; perhaps you are at a turning point in your life and want to mark a fresh commitment for the road ahead; or perhaps you feel God is calling you to a new role or ministry – whatever the reason, you are welcome.

At Christ Church we offer an opportunity to prepare for Confirmation or Renewal of Baptismal Vows once a year. The next group will begin during 2014, preparing candidates for confirmation later in the year. If you would like to be part of this, or would like to know more about what might be involved, speak to one of the clergy.

THE INVITATION...

One man came out of his house on his way to church on Sunday morning, just as his neighbour came out of his with his golf clubs. The golfer said, "Henry, come and play golf with me today". Henry, with an expression of self-righteous horror on his face replied "This is the Lord's day, I go to church, certainly I would not play golf". After a moment's embarrassed silence the golfer quietly said, "You know Henry, I have often wondered about your church and I have admired your fidelity. You know also however, that this is the seventh time I have invited you to play golf with me - and you have never invited me to go to church with you".

Food for thought?

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.

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 12 April at 9.30.

See you there, **Sue**

Do you or members of your family have any interesting stories from World War 1

As part of the national commemorations of WW1 we are looking to reproduce stories that congregation members might like to submit of their relatives, or local men, who engaged in the conflict!

If you have a family story, perhaps with a photograph of the person you are writing about that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an edition of Christ Church magazine over the next four years please let Sue Brewer or Mike Cubitt know.

We are hoping to get enough copy to enable a different story to be produced in the magazine during the four year anniversary period.

All photographs will be returned, but please mark on the back your name and address.



Members of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs) tending the graves of fallen British soldiers in a cemetery at Abbeville in 1918.

Monday 14th April

Historical guided tour of the Heritage Quarter

beginning outside Gravesend Library at 11 am.

Cost: £3 – option for visit to Reliance Fish Restaurant afterwards

No need to book, just turn up. Information Christoph Bull 0770 2287147

Thursday 15th May

Gravesend riverside tour

meet 11 am outside Fort gardens (Entrance nearest to Milton Place Car Park)

Cost: £3 – option for visit to Reliance Fish Restaurant afterwards.

No need to book, just turn up. Information Christoph Bull 0770 2287147

Sunday 22nd June

Guided walk around Shorne village

meet 2.30 pm by bus stop on Forge Lane/Gravesend Road junction, Shorne

Cost =£3 . No need to book, just turn up

Information Christoph Bull 0770 2287147

Diocese of Rochester: General Synod Elections 2015

Be Properly Represented 'BPR'

An initiative to make sure that you are properly represented in your churchand an invitation to lunch!

Although there are encouraging signs that legislation to allow women bishops will have been passed before the next Synod is formed in 2015, there will be many other issues on which you may want your voice to be heard. These are likely to include:

- Issues related to marriage, gender and sexuality
- How we pay for ministry
- Ecumenical and Anglican communion relations
- Interfaith relations
- Worship
- Mission and Evangelism in our multi faith society
- Christian Ministries with Young People
- Social justice

Be Properly Represented is an initiative by 3 former General Synod members who are not standing again. Its overarching aim is to promote active engagement in the processes that lead to the election of General Synod members so that, between them, the elected members fairly represent the whole diocese (geographical spread, age, gender, race etc.) respecting the spiritual depth and intellectual breadth of the Church of England..

The **BPR** initiative has three strands in order to:

- Encourage a wide range of clergy and laity to stand for election to the General Synod
- Ensure that Deanery Synod members know that they are the people who elect members to the House of Laity of the General Synod, and that they exercise their right to vote.
- Raise awareness among all church members in parishes and deaneries, so that they can ask questions, make nominations and take an active interest in Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod elections.

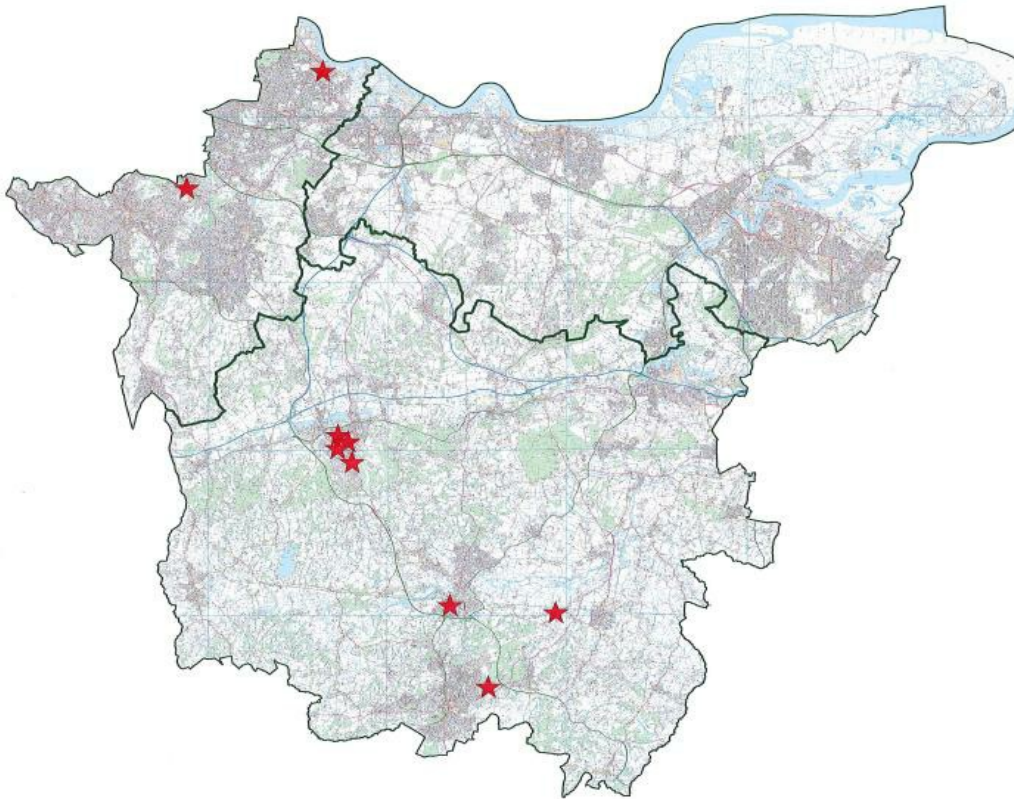
A few facts:

- Rochester has 5 lay members and 4 clergy members of the General Synod.
- There are 7 men and 2 women
- Their ages range from 47 – 79
- Most live in the Tonbridge Archdeaconry – see map
- None live in the Rochester Archdeaconry
- In the 2010 elections 99 clergy out of a possible 288 and 214 lay deanery synod members out of a possible 532 did not use their vote.
- Deanery Synod elections are in March 2014

What can you do?

- Think about standing for Deanery or General Synod
- Look around, think about people you know who would be good Deanery Synod or General Synod members and encourage them consider standing.

- Ask those who are standing for election what they think about issues that concern you, so that you can use your vote wisely.
- Remind Deanery Synod members to use their vote in the General Synod elections in 2015.



Map: *The small stars show where current 9 members of the General Synod live.*

How can we help? If you are interested in standing for General Synod please:

1. Get in touch with one of us
2. Pray about it and ask close friends what they think
3. Come to the **Synod Enquirers lunch on 29th March 2014 at Bishopscourt, 12.00 – 2.00pm.** There we will give a brief talk on what is involved, how to stand for election etc, and answer any questions that you might have. This will not commit you to anything, and may even convince you that it's that last thing you want to do! **To sign up for the lunch contact Bridget Langstaff.**

Who are we?

We are all previous General Synod members who will not stand for election again.

Bridget Langstaff – lay member for Birmingham 1990 – 2004

Brian McHenry – lay member for Southwark 1980-85 & 1987-2005, now a parish priest in Rochester

Gordon Oliver – clergy member for Rochester 1995-2013

General Synod Enquirers Lunch: 29th March 2014 12.00 – 2.00 Lunch served at 12.30

At: Bishopscourt, 24 St Margarets Street, Rochester, ME1 1TS

Let Bridget know if you would like to attend, and whether you have any dietary requirements. Please feel free to bring a friend. Some parking is available.

Emails: bridget.langstaff@btinternet.com Mobile: 07816 828439
canongordon.oliver@gmail.com and brian@mchenry.co.uk

**Below: Ivy Woolcock who was 103
on 5 March and opposite page is
Joan Jarvis who celebrated her
100 years on 19 February this year**





Saturday 3 May

we are holding a

SPRING CHARITY EVENT

in aid of the

**Oliver Fisher
Special Baby Care
Trust**

based at Medway Hospital

**CHRIST
CHURCH HALL**
**Doors open at 11.00
till 15.00**

**Entry 50p - Refreshments -
Numerous Stalls - Raffle etc.**

If you are able to help in any
way, eg: help on the day, make
a cake or donate a raffle prize

**please contact Sally on
01474 325298 or speak
to her in church**



Tuesday 1st April 2014: Kaffee und Kuchen afternoon – come and enjoy a German themed afternoon of socialising with coffee, cake and a short talk on German connections with North West Kent by Christoph Bull (Chairman). Organised by Gravesend Town Twinning Association – open to everyone.

If you are interested in town twinning and German culture, then this is the event for you (celebrating Bismarck's birthday).

TJs public house

15 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RF **Start: 2.30pm**

Tickets: £5 – inc coffee and cake - by booking with TJs only on 01474 533891

Thursday 3rd April 2014: Gravesend town-Gateway to the Thames (illustrated talk)

Speaker: Christoph Bull 0770 2287147

TJs public house

15 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RF **Start: 7pm**

Tickets only - £7.50 inc cheese and glass of wine – by booking with TJs only on 01474 533891

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



New youth choir in Gravesend
We meet weekly for Rehearsals
at Christ Church
Tuesday evenings
6.15 pm to 7.30 pm



CRABBIT OLD WOMAN

What do you see, nurses, what do you see?
What are you thinking when you look at me?
A crabbit old woman , not very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with far-away eyes:
Who dribbles her food and makes no reply
When you say in loud voice, "I do wish you'd try;
Who seems not to notice the things that you do,
And forever is losing a stocking or shoe
Who, unresisting or not, lets you do as you will
With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill.
Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see?
Then open your eyes, you're not looking at me!
I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still,
As I move at your bidding, as I eat at your will.
I'm a small child of ten with a father and mother,
Brothers and sisters who love one another.
A young girl at sixteen with wings on her feet,
Dreaming that soon now a lover she'll meet.
Remembering the vows that I promised to keep.
At twenty-five now I have young of my own
Who need me to build a secure happy home.
A women of thirty my young now grow fast
Bound to each other with ties that should last.
At forty my young now will soon be gone
But my man stays beside me to see I don't mourn.
At fifty once more babies play round my knee,
Again we know children, my loved one and me.
Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead,
I look at the future, I shudder with dread,
For my young are all busy rearing young of their own,
And I think of the years and the love I have known.
I'm an old woman now and nature is cruel,
'Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool.
The body it crumbles, grace and vigour depart,
And now there's a stone where I once had a heart.
But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells,
And now and again my battered heart swells.
I remember the joys, I remember the pain,
And I'm loving and living life over again.
I think of the years all too few - gone so fast,
And accept the stark fact that nothing can last
So open your eyes, nurses, open and see,
Not a crabbit old woman, look closer - SEE ME

*(This poem was found among the possessions of an old Irish lady who died in a geriatric hospital.
The poem was first published in Beacon House News, the magazine of the Northern Ireland Association for mental health)*

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.

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.alz-dem.org or by telephoning us on 01474 533990 or by writing to **Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services, The Basement, Dene Holm House, Dene Holm Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8JY. Email: alz-dem.org.uk**

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.

LENT QUIET DAYS 2014

THE BISHOP OF TONBRIDGE

is offering three Quiet Days during Lent.
Both lay and ordained are welcome to attend.

**Thursday 27 March at St John the Baptist,
Meopham**

**Saturday 29 March at All Saints, Tudeley,
Tonbridge**

**Wednesday 9 April at St Barnabas, Joydens
Wood, Bexley**

Tea/Coffee on arrival at 10.00 am to begin at 10.30 am.
Please bring your own lunch. Departure at 3.30 pm.

If you would like to reserve a place on a Quiet Day,
email bishop.tonbridge@rochester.anglican.org
or telephone 01732 456070
before Wednesday 19 March 2014.



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**

5 April from 16.00 - 7 Warrior Avenue

19 April from 16.00 7 Warrior Avenue

3 May from 16.00 7 Warrior Avenue

WHY NOT BRING A FRIEND ALONG TO ENJOY THE EVENING

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 17 April**. 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



EllenorLions Hospices
'without them we would have been lost'



COFFEE MORNING

FRIDAY 23 MAY, 10.00 - 12.00

COLDHARBOUR ROAD, NORTHFLEET

Admission 80p including tea or coffee

Friends of St. Mary's Stansted Local Bank Holiday bike ride now in its sixth year

On the first Bank Holiday Monday in May, Kent cyclists will be pumping up their tyres to enjoy the sixth Cloisters Charity Bike Ride, starting and finishing as usual at Stansted Village Hall, Kent, TN15 7PH on Monday 5th May

Last year 335 riders took part, raising funds for the Friends of St Mary's Stansted and had a wonderful day riding through the quiet leafy lanes and charming villages of the North Downs of West Kent. The three rides provide something for everyone, from families to the serious cyclist, with interesting routes, excellent back-up, a ploughman's lunch, the promise of tea with scrumptious homemade cakes.

- **44 miles – “The Challenge”:** A lovely ride on many unknown lanes. A very good workout for the most hardened cyclist, a real challenge for the less experienced.
- **23 miles – “The Classic”:** A great ride that includes a very short 1 in 4 hill, with badges awarded to those who ride it! Suitable for all, but requires some training if you don't normally ride a bike
- **13 miles – “The Cruise”:** Quiet lanes especially suitable for the occasional cyclist and for families with younger children.

Entry is open to all ages and costs from £15 for adults, and £10 for children. Check out the website

www.cloistersbikeride.org or call 01732 822222 (answerphone) for an entry form



Christ Church 200 Club

The 200 Club is a means of raising money for the Christ Church General Fund, which supports the Ministry and Mission of the church and Good Causes as agreed by the PCC, whilst at the same time giving members the opportunity of a small 'flutter' and the chance to win some money.

Membership costs £30 per year. Fifty percent of all monthly donations are given over to the Christ Church General Fund with the remainder being returned to the membership in prize money. The draw is made on the fourth Sunday of every month in the hall after the morning service.

Payment can be made by an annual sum of £30, a quarterly payment of £7.50 or a monthly payment of £2.50, the latter two by bankers order. Cheques should be made payable to Christ Church PCC No 3 account.

Join by contacting John Thrush, in church, and completing an application form. If you are not sure who John is, ask one of the sides people and they will point you in the right direction.

Winning chances are only limited by the amount of numbers you purchase, the more you have the better your chance of winning.

Worthwhile it certainly is, since its inception the 200 Club has donated over £40,000 to Christ Church to support its Ministry and Good Causes.

Are you a member?

Why not think seriously about joining and helping your church

Contact

**JOHN THRUSH
200 Club Secretary**

CHRIST CHURCH

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 p.m. term
time**

£1.50 per family

**In the hall at Christ Church, Echo
Square, Gravesend**

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

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




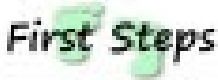

Office hours

Registered Charity no. 1130741



Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

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	<i>girls in the lead</i>
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 APRIL 2014

Sunday 	6 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 11.45 Annual Parochial Church Meeting	13 Palm Sunday 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 18.30 Choral Even- song	20 Easter Day 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 18.30 Festal Song	27 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday 	7 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	14 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	21 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES	28 08.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES
Tuesday 	1 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	8 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	15 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	22 07.00 Service 16.45 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers
Wednesday 	2 10.00 Service 16.45 Service 20.00 Mothers Union Lent Course	9 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 16.45 Service Lent Course See page 3	16 10.00 Service 16.45 Service	23 10.00 Service 16.45 Service
Thursday 	3 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	10 07.00 Service 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	17 Maundy Th'sday 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed 16.45 Service 19.30 Communion	24 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed 16.45 Service BROWNIES Choir practice
Friday 	4 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	11 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	18 Good Friday 10.00 Hot Cross Bun Service 12.00 Meditation at the foot of the Cross	25 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 16.45 Service 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS
Saturday 	5 08.00 Service	12 08.00 Service 09.30 working party	19	26 08.00 Service

Gravesend Floral Arrangement
Society presents:

A FUN QUIZ EVENING

**Teams -
Maximum 6
in each**

RAFFLE

**Bring your
own
Snacks and
Drinks**

**on Friday 9th May 2014
7.00 for 7.30 p.m Prompt Start
Christ Church Hall, Old Road East,
Gravesend. DA12 1NR
£5.00 entry per person**

**Gravesend Floral Arrangement Society–
Quiz – Friday 9th May 2014**

Please let Sheila Knight know how many are in your team

Contact Name Tel No

Total Number attending.....

Return to Sheila Knight, by **1st May** to 2 The Downage, GRAVESEND Kent,
DA11 7NB

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