

CELEBRATE OUR SAVIOUR



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE MARCH 2018

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50p

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday 18 March

Copy: email to:-

ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

Christ Church Hall is available for hire Contact Maxine Springett, contact numbers are 01474 746428 or 07511962277.

Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and children's parties

Christ Church Milton-Next-Gravesend

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acknowledged

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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			
Assistant Curate	Karen Seggie	362654			
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693			
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	249106			
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713			
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763			
Church Warden	Andy Nailor	564581			
PCC Secretary	Linda Riordan	746988			
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	249106			
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702			
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339			
Reader	John Hougham	352138			
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443			
Webmaster	Tim McArthur				

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Church spires to boost rural wifi access

Churches spires could play a key role in bringing wifi, broadband and mobile access to rural areas through a new agreement between the Church of England and the Government.

The Church of England has signed an accord with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), setting out how churches and other church properties could host new digital infrastructure.

Two thirds of Church of England parishes are located in rural areas including some of the remaining mobile and wifi 'blackspots'.

General Synod backs motion to tackle food waste

The Church of England's General Synod has called upon the Government to tackle food poverty and take steps to minimise waste throughout the supply chain.

in Members backed a motion brought by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and lpswich outlining ways retailers and Church of England members can attempt to tackle food poverty in Britain.

The motion calls for the Government to consider steps to reduce waste in the food supply chain. It also urges parishes to help lobby retailers on food waste. The motion also stressed the need for church members to reduce waste in their own homes.

Presenting the motion, the Revd Andrew Dotchin said: "The figures on food waste in our nation are horrible and rehearsing them will not make them any more attractive."

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 second Saturday of each month... NOTE the next one will be on 10 March at 9.30.

See you there, SUE



Christchurch Mother's Union met in the hall for their February meeting which was their Annual General Meeting, 24 members attended.

We started with a short Communion Service led by Rev Sue Brewer. After this Sheila opened the meeting, the minutes of the last AGM were read by Anne Thrush and one or two points were raised. Margot was not able to attend so the Treasurers Report was read on her behalf and her accounts distributed. Margot had asked for a deputy to help her with these with a view to taking over as treasurer in the future and Sue Oaten had volunteered to do this. The Committee's report on the various activities which had taken place during the year followed.

Now we meet in the hall Sheila asked for volunteers to help set up the hall, serve refreshments and say prayers, there is a rota for this purpose. Mother's Union publishes a magazine called Families First which contains lots of articles about Mother's Union. Sheila asked if we would like an old copy to read at a donation of £1, and forms are available to subscribe to this. Some copies are usually available on the

MU table at the back of the church. We had a short discussion on various suggestions which were made as to future events This AGM would be the last that Rev Sue would attend so we presented her with a pen and card, (see photo opposite) The meeting closed and refreshments were served, tea and coffee and, as it was Shrove Tuesday, pancakes! Jan was kept busy in the kitchen tossing the pancakes, (see photos opposite)

The raffle tickets for the Simnel Cake (made by David) will shortly be available.

The March meeting will include a look at the Easter Experience which will be set up in the church.

Do you run a local business? Have you thought of advertising in this monthly magazine?

If you would like details of costs and how you could contribute to Christ Church through advertising please contact **07840343831** or email ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk



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Mothers' North Christian care for families



Top left Sue with her presentation, above the pancake goes up and below settles back in the pan, success!







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COFFEE ROTA 2018



11 Mar David - Steve - Gerry

18 Mar Annie - Jill - Jenny

25 Mar Annie - Jill - Sheila

1 Apr Annie - Jill - Sally



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



FIRST STEPS 14TH FEBRUARY 2018 ST VALENTINE'S DAY AND ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS

As usual our naughty little sheep is up bright and early. There is a little bit of early sunshine but the weather forecast isn't very good. Our naughty little sheep doesn't worry quite so much about the weather these days, he is just looking forward to seeing the Mums, Grandmas and children that come to join us for First Steps. The sunshine has gone and there is a very cold wind when our naughty little sheep, his friends and I walk up to church in the early afternoon. As usual they all make themselves comfortable, ready for our service. Our naughty little sheep has got a new friend who will be joining him and the glittery dragon on our altar. It is Audrey Hedgehog, given to us specially by Audrey Price and now appropriately named! Linda soon comes in to help get everything ready. Jan can't be with us today because she is keeping an eye on granddaughter Tilly, as it's half term.

When everything is ready we open our big church doors and first in today is Mum Rachel with baby Evelyn, just 8 weeks old, and very sweet. It is there first visit to First Steps and it is lovely to welcome them. Eventually others follow including Ralph, Isabelle and Florence who are big children who we don't often see. It is great that they are able to join us and our naughty little sheep and his friends are really pleased to see them, too. When everybody if settled with their jingle bells, we light our candles and our service begins.

Today we're thinking about love because it's Valentine's Day. Our naughty little sheep is a bit disappointed because no one has sent him a Valentine. Better luck next year, I say! Ash Wednesday also about love, too; God's love for us. Now that we are in Lent we are preparing ourselves to journey with Jesus as he makes his

way to the cross and it is through the cross that we see the extent of God's love. The thought of the cross always makes our naughty little sheep really sad. We have got forty days now to try and be nicer, kinder, more loving and more generous; a bit more like Jesus, really, as we get ready to support him. It is a very hard road for him and it should be quite a challenging time for us, too. Our naughty little sheep cheers up a bit when we sing about Jesus' love and how it surrounds us on every side. We sing about the people that we love and who love us. It helps us to remember how very lucky we are. We sing about God's love, and how He loves each one of us more that we can ever really know. Now we are in Lent it is a good time for us to be generous and share the good things that we have with those who aren't as lucky as us. isn't it?

The children have been very good and they have been playing their jingle bells beautifully. Jack has been banging a tambourine with two maracas and making a wonderful noise. But everyone is very good and quiet as we say our prayers, thanking God for all the good things that He gives to us each day and for our fun time together. Then we blow out our candles and it's time to go into the hall for refreshments, and some time to play and chat. For some reason our naughty little sheep and his friends decide to stay in church. I think it

must be a bit of Lent coming on. They want to be quiet and think about what it all means. Meanwhile the Mums, Grandmas and children are having a drink and eating all the biscuits, while they can! We have had a lovely time together, as always and we hope that everyone will join us again on 14th March for our next First Steps service. Spring will almost be here; something to look forward to.

God Bless Rosemary Austin

Sunday 18 March PASSION SUNDAY

10:00 JOURNEY TO THE CROSS A reflection on the cross of Christ in readings, hymns and choral music

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Thursday 29 March - Maundy Thursday

19:30 An informal service of Holy Communion

We re-live the events of the night of Jesus' arrest. The church will be open afterwards until 10pm, for silent prayer.

Friday 30 March - Good Friday

10:00 Hot Cross Bun Service

Especially for children and young people and their families... the story of the cross, activities for Good Friday, and buns!

12 noon-15:00 - Reflections at the cross for Good Friday

Come for as long as you like—arrive or leave on the hour or at 1/2 past the hour.

HE IS RISEN!

Services for Easter Day

Sunday 1 April

05:30 Lighting of the Easter fire and Service of Light followed by breakfast
08:00 Holy Communion
10:00 Celebration Holy Communion with refreshments and Easter

eggs 16:00 Festal Evensong





HOLY BAPTISM

18th February

Alba James Young

REST IN PEACE

30th November 3rd December

Dennis John Scrivener Arthur William Smith

11th December

Ada Clark

12th December

Margery Maggie

Marion Reader 14th December

Alexander Downie Eileen Muriel Ross

9th January 12th January

Charmaine Bruce





EXPERIENCE EASTER at CHRIST CHURCH Echo Square Gravesend - an interactive journey through the events of Holy Week for children and adults Open Church Wednesday 21st March between 11sm and 12 30mm

Wednesday 21st March between
11am and 12.30pm
Maundy Thursday 29th March
from 10.00am for private
reflection.
For a guided prayer journey

come at 7.30pm on 13th or 26th

March.

Also open after usual daily services

Schools, groups, clubs and churches welcome from March 6th. Booking is Essential

Contact Rev. Sue Brewer
01474 352643-succ@brewer86.plus.com or
Veronica Read
01474 534857 veronica@which.net

Do you or a member 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 two 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 years anniversary period.

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



EXPERIENCE EASTER

Following the success of Experience Christmas we shall be presenting Experience Easter during March. An interactive way to explore the events of the last week of Jesus' life, the cross and resurrection. Schools, organisations and churches have already started to book visits and we have other times when individuals can make their own journeys. To make

all this happen we need Volunteers who will explain the displays to the visitors, training is given and the script provided. If you would like to help or to know more speak to someone who helped at Christmas or Sue or contact Veronica 01474 534857 veronica@which.net. The children especially make this a fascinating experience for all who take part. Thank you."

HGS Productions

announce their production of

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

by Gilbert and Sullivan

23 to 26 March 2018

contact our Director

Richard Gegg at rgregg@uk2.net

BIBLE NOTES

As well as the "New Daylight" booklet of Bible notes prepared by the Bible Reading Fellowship, there is also a booklet entitled "Bible reflections for older people". This also comes out every four months and is priced at £4.99. This booklet is written by older people for older people, the reflections are designed to bring hope, assurance and sustenance, reminding the reader of the presence and love of God. Each issue contains 40 Bible reflections and prayer suggestions to use and revisit as often as needed.

If you would be interested in seeing a copy of this booklet please have a word with Julie Hill.

No prizes in this new feature, but give it a try just for a bit of fun

M E K F A T Y I J S S F P D Y
K O E U N E V A E N I P G P D
C O L D R O A D E A S T Y I X
R S J D A O R K R A P W B Q E
O W S C F T E N A L N U S J S
S E U P L W L W H C U G Q K B
S Y S M A N O R D R I V E B N
L E V A L L Y D R I V E W T C
A H M I L T O N A V E N U E T
N T F K F H X E C L J M F P V
E G D A O R K C O R R A P W C
E V D A O R L L I H E T I H W
A P D Z I D N E Q J D C W P U
S E C H O S Q U A R E I N Y L

This month associated with roads around Christ Church

CROSSLANEEAST
PARROCKROAD
ECHOSQUARE
PINEAVENUE
MANORDRIVE
SUNLANE
MILTONAVENUE
THEYEWS
OLDROADEAST
VALLYDRIVE
PARKROAD
WHITEHILLROAD



Tuesday 20th March 2018 Christ Church Gravesend Come and hear our 'budding'
Semiquavers sing their Spring selection including Edelweiss, Hail Holy Queen and Blame it on the Boogie!

Tickets are available from Gill Campbell tel: 07837852082

£4.00 adults children FREE 6.30pm









Rochester Cathedral Exhibition

Our pictures taken at the exhibition in Rochester Cathedral on now and until 12 March really worth going to.



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- 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

Youth

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

PEACE CANDLE IN REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE THAT WENT BEFORE

You may well have seen the 'Peace Candle' that was used at the WW1 commemoration service on 4th•August, 2014 now in the sanctuary.• The candle will remain in place throughout the 4 years of commemoration and will be lit at each Sunday and Wednesday service, as a reminder to us



all to pray for peace in the many areas of conflict throughout the world.• When you see the candle, please remember to pray for those caught up in conflict. The sign near to the candle records the areas of conflict most in our prayers at any given time (though there are other 'hidden' conflicts that rarely appear on our televisions). If you would like an area of the world added to the list, please speak to Revs Sue or Jacqueline.





The Jealous Brothers

Joseph had a brand new coat, given to him by his father, it was a coat of many colours -

red and blue and yellow. It was a very special coat, not supposed to be worn every day, but Joseph wore it all the time.

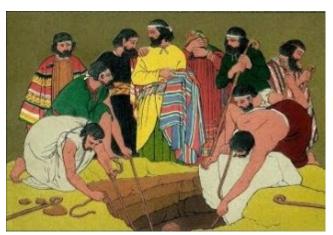
"Look at me," Joseph said to his brothers. "Look at me in my new coat!"

"Dad's always giving you presents. He loves you more than us. It's not fair!" his brothers shouted. Joseph had ten big brothers and one little brother. But none of them, not even the little brother had a new coat so special.

Their father, Jacob loved Joseph best, and it wasn't fair. The brothers were jealous.

One day, when his brothers were minding the sheep in the hills, Jacob said to Joseph. "Go and make sure they are all right." So Joseph set off to find them, wearing his special coat. They saw him coming from a long way away. His coat stood out with its many colours.

"Here comes Dad's favourite," they said. "Now's our chance to get rid of him. We can tell



Dad a fierce wild animal killed him." They were so spiteful, they wanted to kill Joseph. But

one of the brothers tried to save him. "Throw him down this well.

instead. No need to hurt him," he said. So they tore of Joseph's coat

and threw him down the well. "Let me out! Please let me out, "Joseph

begged. But they pretended not to hear.

After some time a few men came riding by. Their camels were loaded with precious things

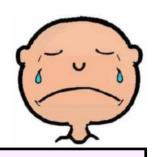
to sell in far away Egypt. "Let them have Joseph," another of the brothers said. "They can

sell him, too." So Joseph was taken far away to Egypt.

The brother made Joseph's special coat all dirty and messy. Then they went home.

Looking at the coat, Jacob the father said. "A fierce wild animal must have killed him. He cried and cried. He thought he would never see Joseph again.

To be continued......



SUNDAY

MOTHERING ALL AGE SERVICE 10:00 **SUNDAY 11 MARCH** POSIES FOR MUMS and CARERS





If you usually pay for your Christ Church Parish Magazine on an annual basis, then there can be no better time to make your contribution than when you collect your February copy. At just 50p per issue this represents very good value for you to keep up to date with what is coming forward, or what has happened in the few weeks that have just gone by. With the running of your church it is another way in which you can help

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.



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01474 569070



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 1.45pm 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 14 March

2018.



Sue Brewer is on the move

Our vicar, Sue Brewer will be leaving Christ Church on 8 April after 10 years.

In September 2007, Sue joined Christ Church after her years at St Edmund's Church, Temple Hill Dartford, and many of her parishioners came to Gravesend to support her as she took up her post with us.

She will leave, taking with her some fond memories of her time serving the the parishioners of Milton-near Gravesend.

All are welcome join her at a farewell service at 15:00 on Sunday 8 April, with refreshments after.

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What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

08.00 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)

Saturday 8 am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7 am.

Wednesday 10 am

For further information
Contact
The Church Wardens

Office hours

Registered Charity no. 1130741 Fric

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 Mothers Union (2nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs

Mothers union and Semiquavers

Wednesday Guides

Christ Church

W. CHICOTTE, W. CHOW

Girlguiding

First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm

Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday)

Thursday Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice:

2.30 p.m. Mustard Seed (every third)

Friday Rainbow Unit; Scouts; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)



Osteoporosis

Have you or one of your friends/family been diagnosed with Osteoporosis?
Would you like more information from medical experts and learn about support available?

A Free Awareness Event

Saturday 17th March 2018

at Best Western Manor Hotel Hever Court Road, Gravesend DA12 5UQ 9.15 for 9.45 start

For Booking and information please contact 01474 564234

Pre-booked sandwich lunch available at £5.00

Gravesend & District Osteoporosis Support Group



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.

Contact
JOHN THRUSH
200 Club Secretary



MUSTARD SEED

Third Thursday of the month In

Christ Church hall 2.30 - 4.00

We invite you to come and join us for tea, biscuits, cake and conversation with occasional speakers and

quizzes.

Come and find out who we are and meet new people. All ages welcome

Contact: Colin Parsonson: 01474 359713

Pam Kilby: 01474 332693

CALENDAR MARCH 2018

	<u> </u>		111	110	125
Sunday		08.00 Service 10.00 Service	11 MOTHERING SUNDAY 08.00 Service 10.00 All Age Service 16.00 Choral	18 PASSION SUNDAY 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	PALM SUNDAY 08.00 Service 10.00 Service
Monday		5 08.00 Service BROWNIES	12 08.00 Service BROWNIES	19 08.00 Service BROWNIES	26 08.00 Service
Tuesday		6 08.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	13 08.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	20 08.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	08.00 Service 18.15 Semiquavers
Wednesday		7 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	14 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 17.15 Evening Prayer	21 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	28 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer
Thursday	1 08.00 Service BROWNIES Choir Practice	8 08.00 Service BROWNIES Choir Practice	15 08.00 Service 14.30 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir Practice	08.00 Service BROWNIES Choir Practice	MAUNDY THURSDAY 08.00 Service
Friday	2 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	9 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	16 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	23 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	30 GOOD FRIDAY 10.00 HOT CROSS BUN SERVICE 12.00-15.00 SERVICE FOR REFLECTION
Saturday	3 08.00 Service	10 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party	17 08.00 Service	24 08.00 Service	31



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