



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2019

Scan the smart code to go to our website



50p

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next magazine
Sunday 19 February 2019
 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

Front cover: Christ Church main door
to the South entrance December 2018

Inside this Month

Page 2	Parish Who's Who
Page 3	Mothers Union
Page 4	Parish giving/Coffee rota
Page 6	First Steps
Page 8	Fostering in Kent
Page 9	Flower displays in church at Christmas
Page 12	Word-search
Page 13	Golden Wedding pics
Page 17	Kids page
Page 18	Plant pots at Christmas
Page 20	Calendar for February

Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar		
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Assistant Curate	Karen Seggie	362654
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	249106
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden	Lucy Hornby	
PCC Secretary	Peter Read	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	
Magazine editor	Mike Cubitt	07840343831

Mothers' Union met for their first meeting this year on 8 January. We had a presentation by Lucy Hornby on her visit, along with Debbie Carter, to the Greenbelt Festival on the August Bank Holiday weekend last year.

The Greenbelt Festival started as a Christian music festival in 1974 attended by a few hundred. It has now expanded to cover various faiths and cultures. Retail areas and, lots of cafes cater for all tastes. There is music, activities and talks taking place all the time in various arenas. Families are also welcome with children's activities. There are religious services including Sunday communion services. Lucy said she had seen various groups and singers of different types of music and talks. Debbie took part in a diy music and singing session. Further details are available on the Greenbelt website.

Our next meeting will be our AGM on 12 February, come and hear what we have been involved with over the past year and our plans for the future.

COPY FOR MARCH MAGAZINE

This is your magazine, and every effort is made to include items supplied by you, our readers.

The one thing that would be most helpful, when submitting copy, is that you e-mail this rather than put a typed sheet on the hook in church.

As I am not a touch typist, it takes considerable time to re-type any copy and is open to me making errors.

Send copy to the address on page 2 by
TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY at the very latest, or
speak to
Mike Cubitt - 07840343831

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 ones will be on 2 FEBRUARY at 9.30.**

See you there, JAN

Below are details of Christ Church's giving to charities and good causes with money donated for that purpose.

Income	2017		2018	
Lent Envelopes	£2,228		£2,366	
Good Causes	<u>£ 1,079</u>		<u>£ 898</u>	
		£3,307		£3,264
Expenditure				
Mary's Meals, Crisis			Mercy Ships	
Air Ambulance each £660	£2,640		The Mission to Seafarers	
Demelza House			Shelter Box each £650	£1,950
			Gravesend Waterside Centre	
			Whizz- Kidz each £325	£ 650
Emergencies	145		Emergencies	£ 100
Holy Trinity CE School			Holy Trinity CE School	
Whitehill School			Whitehill School	
Sanctuary			Sanctuary	
Gravesham Street Pastors			Gravesham Street Pastors	
Alzheimer's and Dementia Support			Alzheimer's and Dementia Support	
Larchwood Grove each £87	<u>522</u>		Services	
		£3,307	Larchwood Grove each £94	<u>£ 564</u>
				£3,264
Christian Aid	£657		Christian Aid	£576
Gravesham Food Bank	£520		Gravesham Food Bank	£713.50
Embrace the Middle East	£216		Embrace the Middle East	£216
Christingle	£516		Christingle	£444

COFFEE ROTA 2019

3 Feb Annie - Jill - Maxine
 10 Feb Maxine - Lucy - Mary
 17 Feb Annie - Jill - Linda
 24 Feb Annie - Jill - Rosemary
 3 Mar Annie - Jill - Angela Kirby

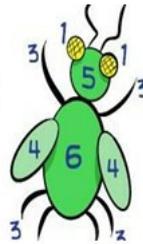


Come in and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee after the 10.00 o'clock Sunday service





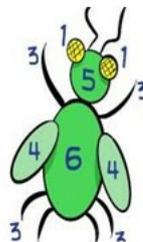
Fish, Chips and Beetles



On Saturday 9th February 2019, at 6pm for 6.30pm at Christ Church Hall, Echo Square, Gravesend.

Book your tickets, order your food, and pay by calling Angela on 07900430002 (last booking date is 2nd February 2019)

Fish and chips (£7.50) or sausage and chips (£4.50) will be ordered and delivered to the hall, just BYO drinks.



New Vicar announced

We are delighted to announce, subject to the usual administrative procedures, the appointment of a new vicar. Her name is Sally Womersley she is presently Team Vicar in the Diocese of Chelmsford, in a benefice of rural parishes in north Essex.

It is hoped that she will be able to take up her new post prior to Easter, but this has still to be confirmed.

Please think of Sally in your prayers.

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.

FIRST STEPS 9TH JANUARY 2019 JESUS' BAPTISM

It's a bright, cold, breezy morning when our naughty little sheep looks out of the window. He is very pleased to see the sunshine, he tells me, because it's our First Steps service this afternoon. He's looking forward to the springtime though, because the cold weather makes his wool stand on end! Well I never! In the early afternoon he, his friends and I walk up to church. Though there are still glimpses of sunshine there is quite a chilly wind and we are all very glad to get inside. They all find their usual places as I begin to prepare for our little service. Linda and Jan quickly follow us and soon we have everything sorted. We open the big church doors and wait to see who is going to join us first.

First in today is little Abigail with Mum Emma and baby brother Rupert. We didn't expect to see Abigail because we thought that she would be at Nursery School but it seems that she isn't starting until Monday. What a nice surprise. I think that she's pleased to see us, too. Our naughty little sheep and all his friends are really pleased to see her and her Mum and baby brother and when others soon join us, they are really pleased to see them, as well.

When everybody is ready and we are all sitting comfortably with our jingle bells poised, our candles are lit and our little service begins. Today we are thinking about when Jesus was baptised. Another word that we use for that is christened. Everybody in church with us has been christened, mostly when they were little babies or children. But Jesus is a grownup man when he is baptised by John the Baptist. And he's baptised in the River Jordan. Our naughty little sheep wants to know if the water is warm. Probably not!

Some interesting and exciting things happen when Jesus is baptised. It might be a bit of a shock for John because the heavens open and a beautiful white dove appears and hovers over Jesus' head. That is the Holy Spirit. And the voice of God is heard, like thunder, saying "This is my Son, my Beloved and in him I am well pleased." Our naughty little sheep thinks that it must have been thrilling to be there and I'm sure that he's right. He's a bit chatty this afternoon. This is a very special time for Jesus, because very soon he is going into the desert to spend some quiet time with God before he begins his ministry of teaching, preaching and healing, showing God's love to the world. Of course, while he's in the desert he has a bit of a run in with the devil but that's another story.

We've been singing about God's love for us, about Jesus' wonderful love and about our beautiful world. We also sneak in "Baa, baa black sheep" especially for Matthew. Our naughty little sheep is really pleased and he and his friends sing with gusto. All the children love it! We are really quiet as we say our "Thank you" prayers to God and the special prayer that Jesus taught us, the Lord's Prayer. Then we blow out our candles and our service is over. Out into the hall we go for a drink, a munch and some quality time together. Our naughty little sheep and his friends love the chocolate finger biscuits. There are some suspiciously chocololaty and crumbly faces!

We have all had a lovely time together as usual and the children are very lively and noisy. Great fun. We hope that they will join us again for our next First Steps service on 13th February. Sadly we won't see dear little Abigail because she will be in the Nursery School,. We'll miss her.

**God Bless Rosemary Austin
Rosemary.**



ELECTORAL ROLL

Every 7 years the Electoral Roll has to be revised . At the end of this month we shall begin the process of revising thje current Electoral Roll which is hopelessly out of date due to people moving or passing away.

Everyone will have to re-apply to be included on the new Electoral Roll.

This means that you will have to fill up one of the forms at the back of the church and hand it to a priest or churchwarden. This will give us a realistic picture of current membership.

Those on the Electoral Roll are, of course, eligible for election to the various church offices.

So don't forget to sign up !

You will receive plenty of reminders.

Michael Charles
Electoral Roll Officer

PILGRIM

Recommences in the New Year

COURSE

Everyone is welcome to come along to one or all sessions

Exciting 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


**Youth choir in
Gravesend**

**We meet weekly for
Rehearsals**

at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.15 pm to 7.30 pm



03000 420 002  kentfostering
kentfostering.co.uk

Kent County Council are recruiting 150 new foster carers and we urgently need to fill the remaining 120 vacancies.

We particularly need homes for older children, brothers and sisters who need to stay together, disabled children, emergency bed carers and carers to support parent and child placements.

What are the different types of fostering?

Task centred - caring for children for a shorter period. This might be for several nights in an emergency or for a longer time until there is a plan for them to return home or a permanent plan.

Permanent - You can provide a safe and loving home for a child and make a real difference. Some children can't go home, but for them adoption isn't possible. Permanent foster caring gives children love, stability and support from childhood to adolescence and beyond.

Parent and Child - Parent and child foster care involves placing a parent, who is experiencing difficulties, and their baby or young child in a foster home. The foster carer helps and encourages the parent to develop their childcare skills and contributes to assessing the parent's potential to meet the child's needs.

Disabled Children - The Disabled Children's Fostering Service recruits, trains and supports foster carers to meet the needs of disabled children. This can include autism, physical and learning difficulties and complex health needs. We need Foster Carers who can care for children either full time or to provide short

break care for disabled children to help families take a much needed break.

16+ - We want to recruit foster carers who can offer young people who are aged 16+, a loving home as well as emotional and practical support. Foster carers who care for 16+ young people can continue to work, as long as they have the flexibility to attend training courses and meetings.

Could you be a foster carer?

Whether you are single, married or in a civil partnership, or have children of your own or not, we'd love to hear from you.

We promote equal opportunities for all, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background, age, religious beliefs, disability or marital status.

We are looking for people with:

energy and enthusiasm

patience

good communication skills

the time to care for a child (from regular weekends to full time)

a secure and stable home (you don't need to own your own home)

a spare bedroom

Why foster with KCC?

By joining the Kent Fostering family you will be joining the most experienced fostering service in the county. Our promise of support to you begins from the moment you start your fostering journey with us. We will provide you with an excellent induction and regular training, local support, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, whatever happens we are always at the end of the line to talk.

What next?

Call us on **03000 420 002** to speak to one of our advisors.

Visit our website to discover more about fostering and request a call back. www.kentfostering.co.uk



FLORAL SPECTACULAR

The fruits of the special talents of the flower arranging group that help prepare the beautiful floral displays that adorn the church during Christmas and many of the other festivals during the calendar year





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

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

*Find the thirteen
American States*
PENNSYLVANIA
HAWAII
NEVADA
MASSACHUSETTS
NORTHDAKOTA
MICHIGAN
KENTUCKY
CONNECTICUT
ALABAMA
FLORIDA
UTAH
NORTHCAROLINA
RHODEISLAND



OPEN DOUBLES PETANQUE CHALLENGE QUALIFIER



£10
Per pair

To celebrate

International Women's Day

SUNDAY 10 MARCH 2019 at GRAVESEND RUGBY CLUB

£10
Per pair

Registration 08.45 - 09.15

Up to 8 Kent teams qualify to represent the "Women of Kent" at the final on Sunday April 14, to be held at Oxshot PC Surrey

Matching tops to be worn on the day

Any queries contact:
Sheila or Mike

07843 386197 - 07840 343831

Bacon Rolls and Light lunches available



FIFTY GOLDEN YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Gwyneth and Michael who celebrated their Golden Wedding on 4th January



Fitness League

Movement for Life In Christ Church Hall

Every Tuesday From 2-3.15 pm

Light remedial exercises Fully qualified teacher

Ladies why not join us!

For more information please

Phone 01634 255759

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, we would be glad to meet you for a cup of coffee and to talk through possibilities.

LGBT HISTORY MONTH

At Christ Church we pride ourselves on being an open and welcoming Anglican church.

Following the success of our supporting Black History Month a few months ago, when we were a place of gathering for many celebrating diversity within our community, we were very pleased to be approached to host a service on 24 February as our contribution to LGBT History month. We are grateful to the Diocese for their support in helping us to make the most of an opportunity to give thanks for the contributions of LGBTQI+ people in the wider community and throughout history.

The Church has not always expressed in its actions, just “how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God” and sadly, not every Church is yet trusted by those who have suffered hostility.

As members of the Inclusive Church network, we are delighted to be asked to open our doors once again for such a celebration; it

expresses our mission, who we are, and our commitment to being a church which does not discriminate on any level; not economic, power, gender, mental health, physical ability, race or sexuality. All are welcome

This is absolutely not just a service for people within the LGBTQI+ communities but for all - family, friends, work colleagues and neighbours - anyone who wishes to join in appreciating those who once were excluded. So that, of course, includes you! **See the poster opposite**

**TUESDAY 12th
FEBRUARY at 7.30pm**

MU

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
with Holy Communion

**COME and VOICE
YOUR views,
ideas, and
suggestions.**



**Our most important
meeting of the year**



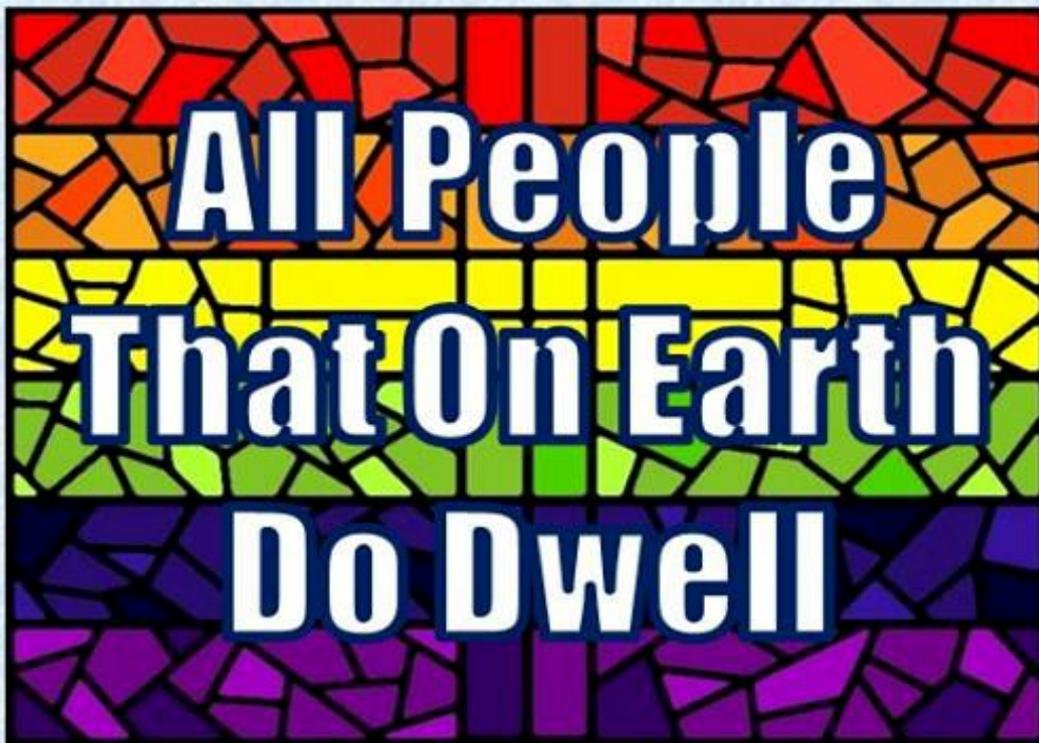
Refreshments available



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND



LGBT History Month Service of Thanksgiving



Recognising and celebrating the achievements and contributions of LGBT communities throughout the ages

Sunday 24th February 2019 at 4pm

Christ Church | Echo Square | Gravesend DA12 1NR



How wide and long, and high and deep is the love of God

Book a space at CHRIST CHURCH

Table Top Sale



£10 per table

Monday 6th May

ADVANCE Booking ONLY

Contact Julie 01474 568265

Charities and Private sellers only

Charity number 1130741

**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

First Steps

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 1.45pm 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 13 FEBRUARY 2019.

David and the Giant

David was minding his sheep. He kept a careful eye on them. They must not wander off. No fierce wild animal must hurt them.

David was a shepherd-boy. He was good at his job. The sheep knew they were safe when David was minding them. He found them fields of juicy green grass. He led them to clear fresh water.

What David liked best was singing songs about God. He sang to God thanking and praising him and also asking for things too. David loved God. One of his songs went like this...

"God is my shepherd, so I have everything I need.
He finds me fields of juicy green grass.
He leads me to clear fresh water.
He guides me on the right paths.
Even when it's dark, I need not be afraid,
because God is with me, keeping me safe.
God is my good shepherd."



"David! David!" One of his brothers shouted. "Go home at once someone called Samuel wants to see you."

God had sent Samuel to David's house to choose the next king. God was not pleased with King Saul who ruled.

The People from the Sea had come to fight King Saul and amongst them was a giant called Goliath. He was enormous and everyone was frightened of him.

Three of David's brothers were amongst King Saul's army, and David was asked by his father to take some food to them. David got there just at the time when Goliath was shouting and daring anyone to fight him. "I'm not scared," David said. "I'll fight him!"



The king heard him. "But you're only a boy," he said. But he agreed to let him try to kill the giant.

So David took his strong stick and went down to the stream. He chose five smooth stones to fit his shepherd's sling. Then he went to fight the giant.

"What's this?" the giant roared. "A boy with a stick, come to fight ME?" "God doesn't need big men with swords to save his people," David answered. He took one of the five smooth stones, and fired it from his

sling: WHIZZ!

The stone hit Goliath right on the forehead and knocked him flat. David cut off Goliath's head with the giant's own sword. King Saul's army cheered and cheered – and the people from the sea all ran away!

Flower pot arrangements and displays at the Southern door entrance of Christ Church in place for Christmas



Alzheimer's & Dementia

S U P P O R T S E R V I C E S

We are the local specialist dementia service for Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley. We empower people affected by dementia to carry on their chosen lifestyle. We equip people with the knowledge and practical support to live well with dementia. If you are affected by dementia, we are here for you. The services you can choose from are:

One to one information and guidance to support you with living with dementia

Peer Support Groups

Memory Cafes

Singing Groups

Advocacy

Carers Peer Support Group

Carers Learning Groups

The Beacon Day Support

Support at Home

Support at Home Care Service

To find out how we can help you, contact us on
01474 533990

info@alz-dem.org

Safeharbour Memory Wellbeing Centre, Coldharbour Road, Northfleet, Kent
DA11 8AE

If you are interested in volunteering with us we would love to hear from you, please contact us to find out more.

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

Monday morning prayer 08:00
Holy Communion (said)
Saturday 08:00
Wednesday 10:00
and evening prayer 17.15

**For further information
Contact
The Church Wardens**

Registered Charity no. 1130741

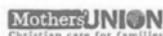
Office hours

Friday 18:30 until 19:30

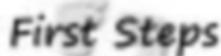
Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)
Monday	Music Group; Brownies
Tuesday	Mothers Union (2 nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers
Wednesday	Guides
Wednesday	First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm
Wednesday	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)

 Mothers UNION
Christian care for families



 First Steps



CALENDAR FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday 		3 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion	10 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion All age service	17 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion	24 08.00 Holy Communion 10.00 Holy Communion
Monday 		4 08.00 Morning Prayer BROWNIES	11 08.00 Morning Prayer BROWNIES	18 08.00 Morning Prayer BROWNIES	25 08.00 Morning Prayer BROWNIES
Tuesday 		5 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	12 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	19 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	26 CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers
Wednesday 		6 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer	13 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer 13.45 First Steps	20 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer	27 10.00 Holy Communion 17.15 Evening Prayer
Thursday 		7 BROWNIES Choir Practice	14 14.30 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir Practice	21 BROWNIES Choir Practice	28 BROWNIES Choir Practice
Friday 	1 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	8 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	15 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	22 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	
Saturday 	2 08.00 Holy Communion 09.30 Work party	9 08.00 Holy Communion	16 08.00 Holy Communion	23 08.00 Holy Communion	