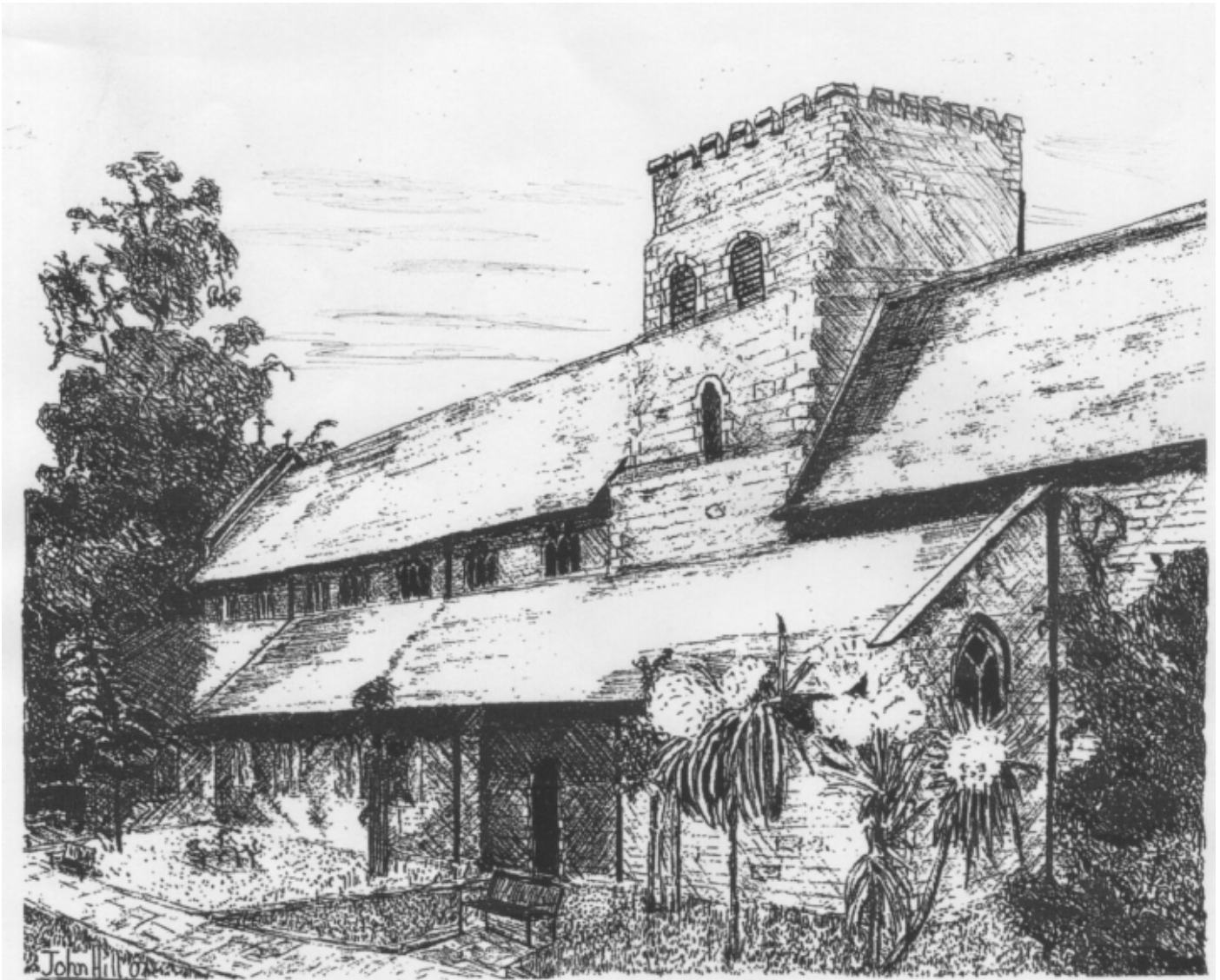




CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

 **First Steps**

Parent & Toddler



CHRIST CHURCH
**YOUTH
CLUB**

Mothering
Sunday

God's Gang

Pre-School

**March
2009**

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Stanley Bond	534510
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for April magazine: Sunday 22nd March .
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,
or email: ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop

Inside this month's magazine

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Christ Church Hall
is available for hire.
Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett
01474 568585

Well equipped. Very
suitable for meetings
and children's parties.

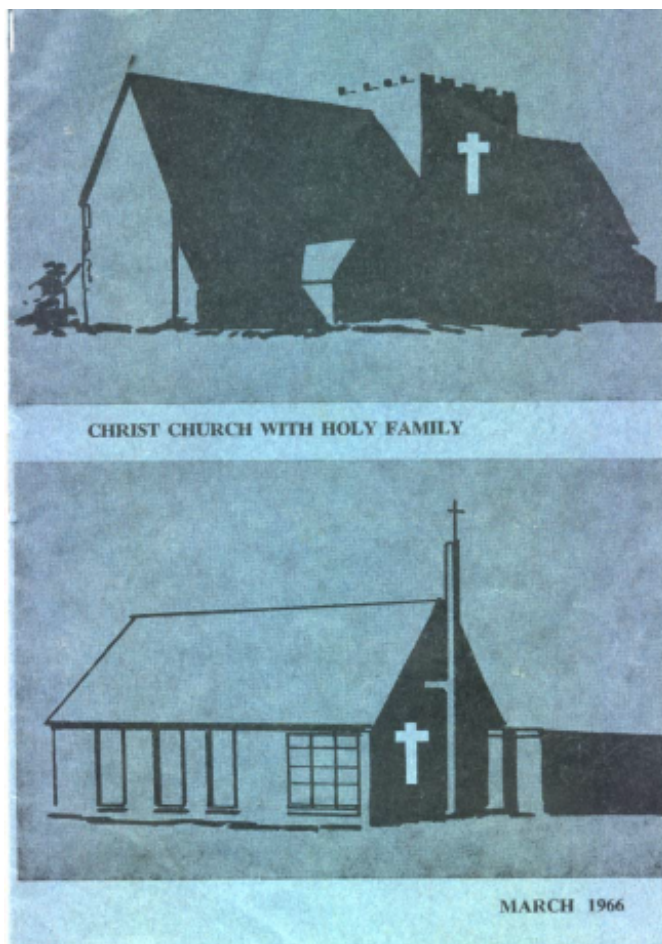
Welcome

The picture on the right is the cover of the March 1966 Parish Magazine.

In the magazine is an advert for 'Mid Lent Ball' to be held in the Large Hall, in Ferndale Road.

Does anyone remember it?

Below is a list of the Lent course meetings for 2009. There are also opportunities to meet on Lady Day (page 12), for the Women's World Day of Prayer (pages 12, 13); to come to a quiz, a model railway exhibition (page 8) and an evening with CCADS (page 8) and to support the hospice coffee mornings (page 14).



We look forward to seeing you at some or all of these events!

Editor

Wednesdays in Lent

A time to grow, learn and worship together.....

Every Wednesday evening during Lent will be an opportunity to deepen our faith through a variety of events. All will start at 7.30 pm and last about 1 hour. Each will use the work of the artist Sieger Koder as a focus.

- 25th February - 'Unexpected' a service for Ash Wednesday
- 4th March - 'Insight' - Ecumenical Lent Service at St John's RC church
- 11th March - 'Stronghold' - Ecumenical Service at Christ Church
- 18th March - 'Washing' - Ecumenical Service at St Paul's URC Church
- 25th March - 'Trusting' - A Lent course for all at Christ Church
- 1st April - 'Be Calm' - A Lent course for all at Christ Church



First Steps

11th February 2009

Hi everyone! It's that time again and our naughty little sheep wants to be sure that you are all up to date with what we've been up to in the last few weeks. On the 21st January our Pre-school children came into Church to sing their special songs and say their "Thank you" prayers. It was the first time that they'd been in Church since before Christmas and our naughty little sheep had really missed them. He told me that he was beginning to wonder if he was ever going to see them again. So he was relieved when they all streamed in. He'd also been a bit concerned because Betty Martin hadn't given him a cuddle lately but he needn't have worried because she came up trumps and in our chilly winter Church he was soon toasty and warm, and very happy. AND the children sang their Marching Song, so he joined in with gusto, doing all the actions too. It made an excellent start to his day! Our naughty little sheep also stayed in Church for the 10am service sitting very quietly next to me. He said that he had been a bit curious to see what actually goes on so he was pleased that I'd let him stay.

11th February is a lovely sunny, cold morning and the children from the Pre-school are in Church once again. They should have been in last week but Marian wasn't able to get in to play the piano because the weather was so cold and some of the roads and pavements were very icy. Our naughty little sheep told me that he thought that it must be great fun playing in the snow and he wished that he could build a snow sheep. Perhaps I'll take him out in the snow the next time we have some. Anyway it's lovely to see the children again. Sue our vicar can't be with us today because she's busy elsewhere, which is a shame. Our naughty little sheep is a bit puzzled because Floyd and Ethan have come in with blue hands and arms. He asks me if it's because they are really cold as it is a chilly day and I have to explain that they've been playing with blue coloured cornflour. He asks me if he can go back into the Pre-school with the children and have a go for himself, because it looks like fun but I don't think that it's a very good idea. Blue cornflour and wool aren't an ideal combination!

Of course the children are very good and sing beautifully and when we say "Thank you" to God for the sun, Calum suggests that we say "Thank you" to God for the moon too, which of course we do. Our naughty little sheep asks if we can sing the song about butterflies, so we all sing "Creepy crawly caterpillar" and he's word perfect. He's getting far too clever! He'll be singing in the choir before we know where we are! Then it's time for Libby to blow out our candle and the children to go back into Pre-school. It's half term next week so hopefully we'll see them again when they return.

In a flash the afternoon is here and Julie and I are back in Church to prepare for First Steps. Joan Bennett, who is standing in for Marian, arrives to play the piano for us. The doors are opened and Daniel is first to arrive, with Nanny Barbara. Sadly his auntie Lisa and cousin Olivia can't be with us today.

They wanted to come but Barbara couldn't get the baby seat into her car. It was all too technical! I know the feeling! Next Kay arrives with Martha fast asleep in her buggy, again. Bless her she looks so peaceful! How long for, I wonder? Soon some of our other regulars begin to arrive as well as newcomers Mandy and daughters Madeleine and Amelie. It is so lovely to see them all. Julie has bought some new jingle bells and clackers, so we are going to have some lovely noisy fun.

Martha is already awake as we begin by singing "Candletime" and she is soon dancing in the aisle. I tell our little gathering that our theme today is Jesus' Parable of the Lost Sheep. And then we realise that someone significant is missing. Oh what a surprise! He was only with me a few minutes ago! Where on earth has he got to now? The children are all very keen to help me find him and we look high up on the window ledges and low down underneath the chairs and then suddenly Erin spots him. You'll never guess where he's perched. Honestly my heart did a somersault! He is precariously balanced on the font cover! How he got there I have no idea! Matthew very kindly helps me get him down. Our naughty little sheep tells me that in the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the shepherd finds the lost sheep in a very precarious position and he was sure that we would find him, too, before he fell down and had a nasty accident! Thank goodness he was right!

Back to our service and Erin is looking after our naughty little sheep now. It's a good job someone is! And with all the excitement I've forgotten our special candles so that is next on the agenda. Eager children cluster around our little altar to have candles lit for special people: a great grandma's 90th Birthday, a mum's 30th Birthday, and a dad's 40th Birthday; so there are lots of big 0 birthdays coming up very soon. There are lots of happy wishes too, for happy days!

When everyone is back in their seats I continue with our story, telling of the great lengths to which the shepherd goes, to find his precious lost sheep. And he is so happy when he finally finds it that he calls on all his friends and neighbours, inviting them round for a party to celebrate. We know that God loves us just like that, going to great lengths to bring us back to Him when we have lost our way, and rejoicing that He has found us. So we celebrate too, because we have found our little lost sheep, singing some of our favourite songs like "Here come the frogs" "Springtime comes" And "Mother Hen." We also sing "Baa baa black sheep" which pleases you-know-who! When we've said our special prayers and carefully blown out the candles, it is time to go out into the Hall for play, refreshments and chat. Joyce and Julie are busy in the kitchen and soon it's drinks and biscuits all round and now it's Tilly's turn to look after our naughty little sheep, much to his delight.

And before we know where we are, cups are washed, toys put away and it's time to go home. The children been given their colouring pictures to take home; a reminder of the Parable of The Lost Sheep and God's undying, self-giving love for each one of us. Our naughty little sheep and I hope that they will all be able to join us again on the 11th March when we will be thinking about Jesus' friends, his Disciples. Who knows what that sheep will be getting up to in the meantime! I certainly don't!
God Bless.

Rosemary Austin



David Martin - our teacher and our friend

Long ago in Heaven above, the Angels to the Lord did say -
A decision has to be made this day,
To find the special person who can do that special job for You.
On Earth, the birth is due of a special boy
whose job will be to teach love and joy.

He will not walk, or play or run,
He will not say I Love You Mum
But he will teach others to care,
To understand the meaning of respect, dignity and how to share.
To share their skills, their time, their love,
In understanding the needs of the boy sent from Above
In return he would let them know,
As only he was able to show.
With twinkling eyes, like stars above
Or the laugh coming from deep within,
That changed into the big, big grin.
Acknowledging that they were doing the job required
therefore, learning the lessons so desired.
But now its time to say GOODBYE - and THANKYOU to the man
who let us share
In his life's work in teaching us how to care.
We do this in the knowledge that the gift of INSIGHT he gave
will not be forgotten, but instilled deeply in the hearts of those
to take with them the lessons freely taught
and to face tomorrow with this thought.
Respect, and Dignity, wrapped up in Love, is the gift we should take
with us ready to share, with all those who are in need of our care.

Thankyou David our teacher, David our Friend, David the Man
Thankyou David for teaching us how we can
God Bless you David, Rest in Peace.

Love you always from your Larchwood Grove Family.

David's funeral took place at Christ Church on Monday 2nd February 2009

Child's First Name: Aly

Full Reference No: 145469/ccs/043

Sponsor's Name: Mrs J A Hill



الىك التحية العذراء:

لقد اقامت لنا المدرسة حفلة جميلة
مناسبة عيد الميلاد المجيد ووزع علينا

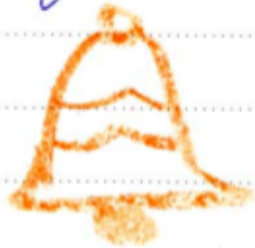
بابا نويل الهدايا واكلنا الكاكو وخرصنا
كثيرا "تكرام" لسعدتكم وانك على

شكرا للباقة الراقية والرسالة
Dear Auntie,

I hope you had a happy time at christmas

I inform you that the school
administration arranged a christmas party.

We were happy to get gifts that were
given to us by santa.



Letter from Aly,
the Palestinian boy
Christ Church sponsor.

Thank you for your donation.
Thank you for your nice card &
your letter.

God bless you
on behalf of your
child Aly
Teacher.

Julie Hill

CCADS A Christmas Carol

Spring is just around the corner and the Farndale Ladies are working very hard to put the finishing touches to their production of 'A Christmas Carol', aided and abetted by CCADS, of course!!!

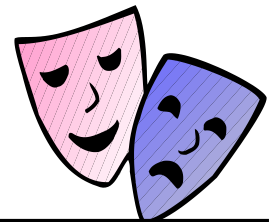
Yes you did read it correctly, CCADS are performing 'The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's production of

A Christmas Carol, by David McGillivray and Walter Zerlin Jnr, on March 26th, 27th & 28th.

Farndale Ladies are working very hard

Tickets are available from Gill Campbell on 534517 at £4 for adults and £1 for students.

CCADS look forward to your continued support.



Soroptimist International of
Gravesend & District

A Musical Quiz Evening with John Pearce

Tuesday 3rd March 2009

at

Christ Church Hall,
Old Road East,
Gravesend

7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.

Entrance £3.00

(Includes Tea or Coffee, Biscuits and Cakes)

Raffle for President's Charities



Vintage Hornby Trains
Plus other makes

Saturday 21st March 2009

10.30 ~ 4pm

St George's Church Hall
Gravesend DA11 0DJ

Gauge 1, Gauge 0 and Double 00



Entrance £2.50

Children £1.00

Family ticket £5.00

Refreshments available

All proceeds in aid of St George's Church Tower Fund

Contact Trevor Ault

(01474) 351039



Choir

Music at Christ Church

Music Group



We are now concentrating on our music for Passiontide. There is a wealth of music written for this time of the year. We try to ring the changes each year by singing different settings for the Passiontide services.

Our new choir members are settling down, learning the music. The little ones seem to be enjoying themselves. They were particularly excited, singing at their first Wedding recently. Their eyes grew very wide, looking at the Bride and Bridesmaid's dresses and all the lovely flowers.

Gwyneth has become a Grandmother again recently to little Ivan! we congratulate her and Michael on their expanding family! Jackie has become unwell again, we will miss her while she is recovering.

We send her our prayers and good wishes and will support her and her family in any way that we can. We look forward to her return to us.

pam Kilby

Spring is just around the corner, and we are busy rehearsing for

Mothering Sunday and Easter Day. We will also be singing at the Maundy Thursday service and leading the music at the ecumenical lent service on March 11th, in Christ Church. We are pleased to have John Thrush back with us swelling the male voices, and we are pleased to welcome Sarah who has joined us. That said, Helen would love to have a couple more men in the group, so come on you men, do not be shy, talk to Helen about joining us!

Gill Campbell



WWF's Earth Hour 2009 - Turn off your lights for one hour on 28 March at 8.30pm



We'd like you to [sign up](#) and join a billion others across the globe to show the world's leaders that we're switched on to climate change and want them to do more to protect our planet's future.

God's Gana

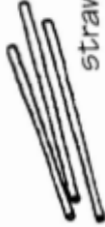
How to make the flowers



You will need



strips of green
tissue paper



straws

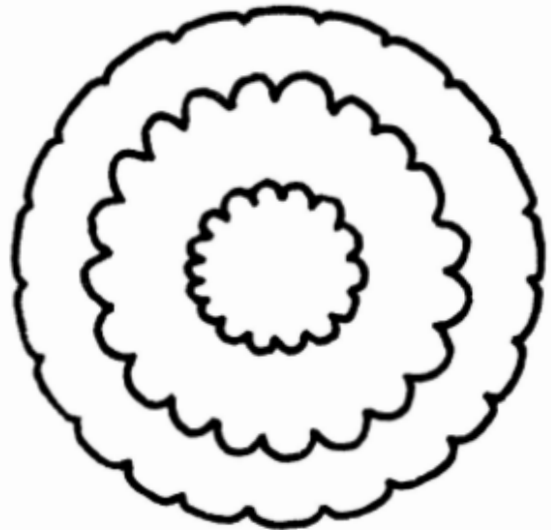
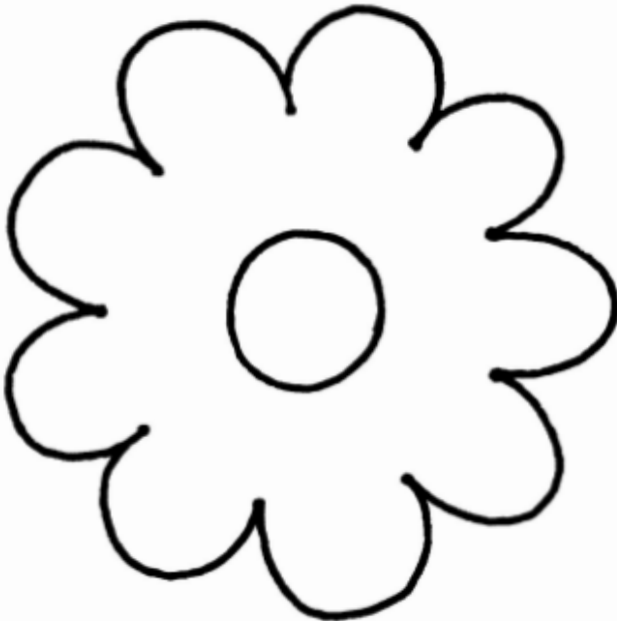
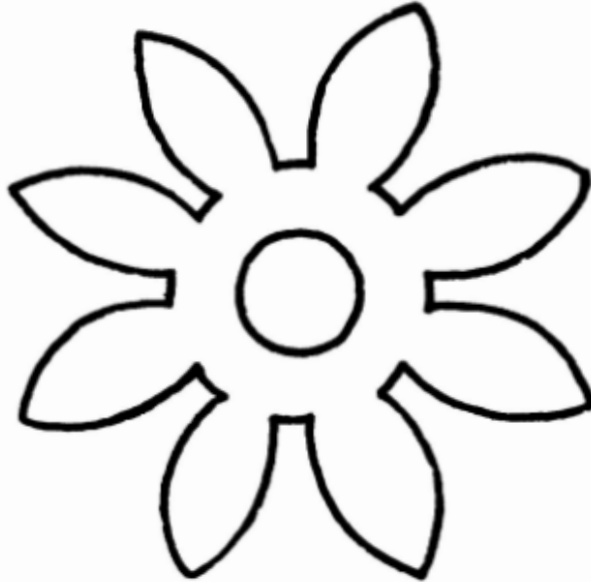
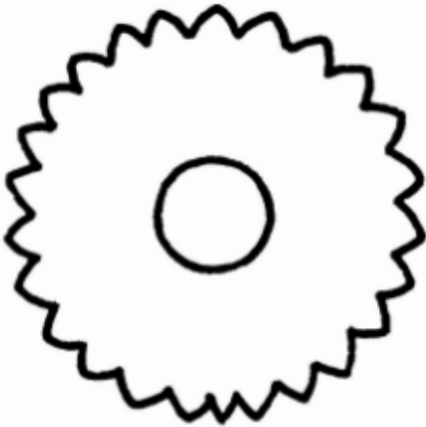


sticky
tape



glue
stick
bright pieces of
fabric, wool or paper

1. Wind green paper round a straw and fix with tape
2. Decorate a flower shape
3. Stick it on its green stem
4. Cut out leaves from green paper
5. Give flowers to your mum!



Christ Church has very successful Brownie and Guide units within them. There isn't however a Rainbow unit which is a great shame because the younger girls miss out.



Girlguiding UK
girls in the lead

As Rainbows have recently celebrated their twenty first birthday it surprises me that there are many people who don't know what Rainbows are.

They are the youngest section of Girlguiding starting at five and going onto Brownies at seven. As far as I am aware there has never been a Rainbow unit in Christ Church and I know that their commissioner would love to get one started. Rainbows don't do things rigidly and spend a lot of their time making craft things and playing games within their weekly meeting. They can work on badges but unlike Brownies and Guides they only work on them as a group and if a girl misses doing one thing she still gets her badge. They can, if they wish, go on overnights and I know of one unit that has been on four over the last few years. The girls really enjoy it.

If you feel you would like to find out more about what is involved in running a Rainbow unit and would like to consider starting one please give me a ring. There will be no pressure on you and no obligation but under Girlguiding rules you must be between the ages of 18 and 65.

One of the most popular annual events which takes place each May is the Kay's Garden Walk. This is a ten mile sponsored circular walk across beautiful countryside from Meopham and back again. The walk is open to not only Guiding groups but any other group or individual who may like to participate. Individuals will be placed within a group. Half the money raised goes towards the maintenance of Kay's Garden and the other half to the group you walk with. There are marshals placed at regular intervals around the walk and Saint Johns Ambulance are in attendance. The only stipulation is that you must have sponsors.

Should you be interested in taking part in the walk or would like to know more about Rainbows please ring me on 01474 568811. Thank you.

Josie

Thames Division Marketing, Recruitment and P.R

STOP PRESS!

MOTHERS' UNION Celebrate LADY DAY WEDNESDAY 25TH MARCH

12 O'CLOCK - AGM followed by a shared lunch in the choir vestry. A chance to review last year, find out about next year, join the committee and make known your feelings about what you want us to be!

Stay for our **LADY DAY SERVICE @ 2.30** when we welcome two new members and celebrate with tea afterwards.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Calling all Mothers' Union members.....

You are invited to attend Gravesend Soroptimists Club celebrations of International Women's Day on Saturday 7th March at Riverside Resource Trust, Dickens Road from 10am. We shall be setting up a display and hope to give a short talk. We would welcome support from as many members as possible.

Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

1st	Mar	Week 7	Joan & Bob Bennett, Ann Lennard
8th	Mar	Week 8	Colin & Linda Parsonson, Anne Thrush
15th	Mar	Week 9	Jerry & Sally Higgins, Sylvia Brown
22nd	Mar	Week 10	Mothering Sunday - MEN will cover
29th	Mar	Week 11	Rita Smith, Jean Stoddart, Sheila Knight
5th	Apr	Week 12	Betty Martin, Margaret Davies, Maria Watson



Maureen Fittell

To all "Shoeboxers",

I have received a letter of thanks from Blythswood Care reporting on the Shoe Box appeal 2008.

Good News: 124,000 gifts were sent to children in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, India, Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. The boxes from our region went to Hungary, Romania and Serbia. Blythswood Care's millionth box went to 7 year old Maria living in a gipsy village. Her whole family's income is less than £50 a month for six people.

Bad News: The number of boxes over the whole of Blythswood Care was considerably down, so if we are to continue to support this project in 2009 we will need to be prepared to do as much as we can. In this time of recession and limited finances I intend to buy suitable items during the year and keep them until required. This also applies to shoeboxes!

This is the last paragraph from the letter: "Words cannot fully express how much we appreciate all the different ways in which you contribute towards making this appeal a success this year. I would just like to you all to know that in whatever way you have involved yourself in the Shoebox Appeal, it is very much appreciated and will have made an impact upon the lives of people like Maria and her family in ways that we may never fully be able to comprehend."

Thank you Christ Church, Veronica.

Women's World Day of Prayer



St Aidan's Church, St Aidan's Way,
Gravesend. Friday 6th March at 10 am.
Rev. Sue Brewer will be preaching.

The 2009 service for Gravesend Town
centre will be held at St George's Church at
2.30 pm on Friday 6th March.



This year it has been prepared by Christian Women of Papua New Guinea and their theme is **"In Christ there are many members yet one body"**.

"As the rainbow colours are bonded together in a magnificent arch, so may our beauty be seen in the love of Christ that unites us".

Eileen Rhodes

COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday	March	27th
Friday	April	24th
Friday	May	29th
Friday	June	26th
Friday	September	25th
Friday	October	30th
Friday	November	27th
Friday	December	11th

Please make a note of these dates in
your diary
and tell your friends and family too!

Many thanks for your continued
support of the Ellenor Lions Hospices.
Registered Charity No. 1121561

GARDENING TIPS FOR MARCH



March, the beginning of the growing season for most of the plants grown in our gardens. Seeds can be bought and even sown indoors. Unless you know better by experience, follow the instructions on the suppliers packets.

With the longer daylight, milder weather and hopefully drier conditions it will be possible to get out into the garden and make all spic and span. The grass will start to grow at any temperature above 10 degrees Centigrade and will probably require topping by the end of the month.

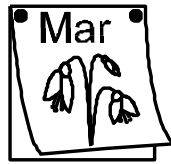
A word of caution, summer bedding will probably be on display by the end of the month and be purchased.

Do not be too keen to buy! Summer bedding can be purchased and planted as late as the 1st of June. With the warm conditions prevailing in the middle of May these plants will thrive.

Any annual planted between Easter and Whitsun will catch up with any planted earlier, with no worry about loss through inclement weather.

ADAM










March



Highlights this month !

Mothering
Sunday

LENT Course CCADS Production

Sunday 	1 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club (Bowling) Confirmation preparation	8 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club Confirmation preparation	15 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club Confirmation preparation	22 Mothering Sunday 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club Confirmation preparation	29 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club (Disco) Confirmation preparation
Monday 	2 Cubs Brownies	9 Cubs Brownies	16 Cubs Brownies	23 Cubs Brownies	30 Cubs Brownies
Tuesday 	3 Soroptimist A Musical Quiz Christ Church Hall 7.30	10	17	24	31
Wednesday 	4 Guides MU Meeting Lent Service St John's RC	11 First Steps Guides Lent Service Christ Church	18 Guides Lent Service St Paul's URC	25 Guides Mothers' Union 'Lady Day' Service Lent Course Christ Church	1st April Lent Course Christ Church
Thursday 	5 Beavers Brownies	12 Beavers Brownies	19 Beavers Brownies	26 Beavers Brownies	
Friday 	6 Women's World Day of Pryaer Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours Christian Aid Quiz Meopham	13 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	20 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	27 Parent & Toddler Ellenor Lions Coffee Morning Scouts Office Hours	
Saturday 	7 Working Party Soroptimist Celebration of International Women's Day	14	21 Vintage Hornby Trains St George's Church Hall	28	

CCADS Production see inside for details

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 Uniformed Organisations parade

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

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Cubs; Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday

Wednesday Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)

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

Thursday Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice

Friday Scouts; Amateur Dramatics ; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working party (1st Saturday)

Sunday Christ Church Youth Club

