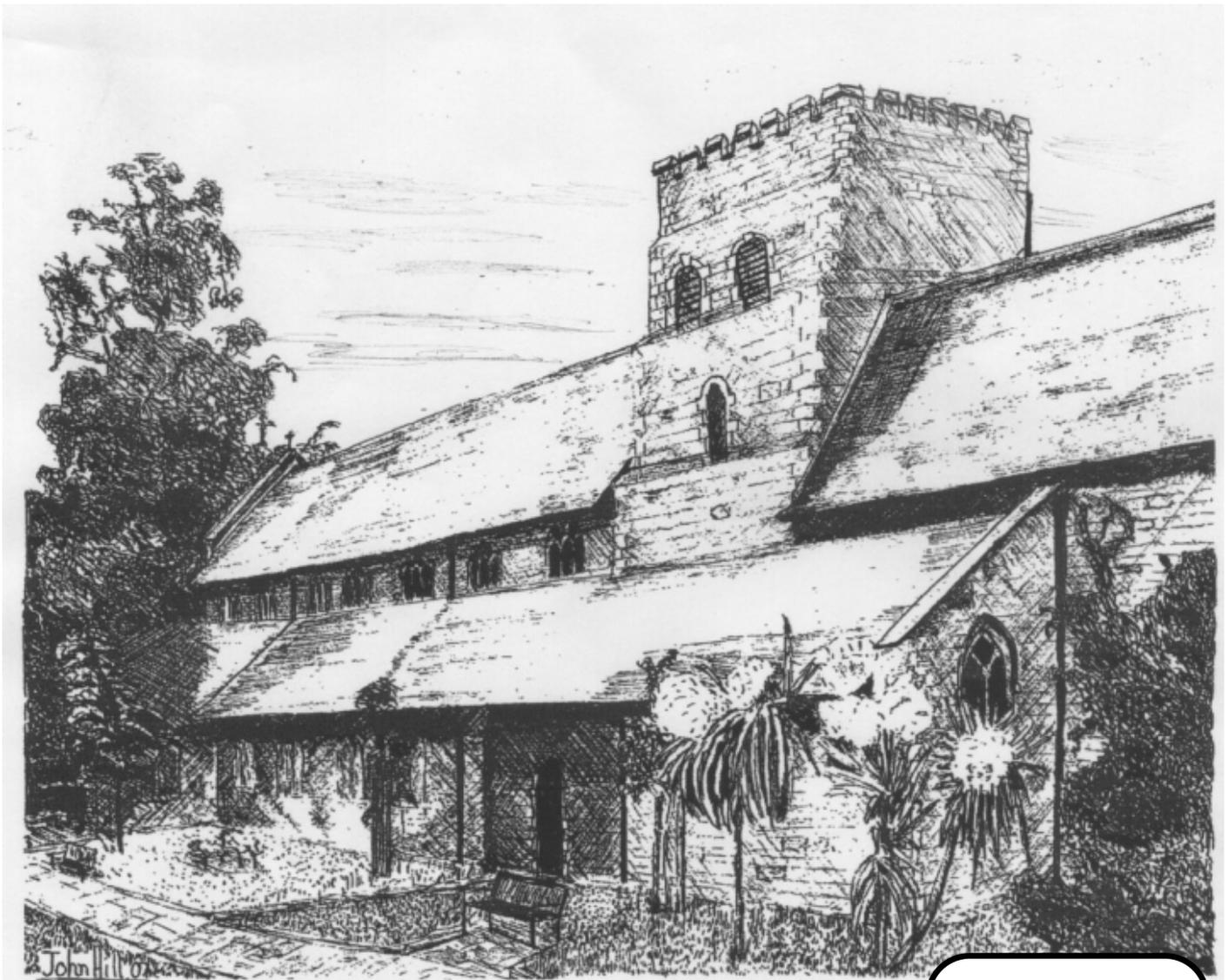




CHRIST CHURCH  
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

# PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

Summer  
Supper  
24th



30p  
or  
donation

July  
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

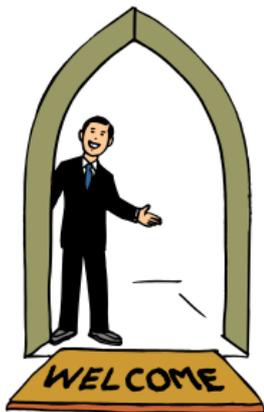
Deadline for August magazine: Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July .  
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,  
or email: [ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop](mailto:ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop)

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.



In this month's magazine Jill tells us about Bristol Cathedral, Peter explains what he and Christine have to undertake as church wardens and Gwyneth Charles tells us about her passion for church music. Sandy and Ted, Margot, EllenorLions Hospices, the Soroptimists and the community of Chalk all invite us to join them at various events during the month.

On the 24th we can all enjoy a summer supper together. On Sunday 12th The Mothers' Union invite us to join them at their annual service. Then we can show our support to the choir by joining them on Choir Sunday the 19th July which is also Sea Sunday when we remember the people who go to sea and those who give them support.

Editor



## Open Church New Arrangements

From now onwards, the church will be open for visitors  
2 mornings a week—

10am to 11.30am on Mondays and on Fridays.

Do come in to visit, pray or take a look around.

Some Coffee Mornings are planned during the Autumn...  
put these dates in your diaries now, and come and meet  
friends and enjoy a coffee in Church.

The dates are: **Thurs 16th July, Tues 15th September,**

**Thurs 22nd October and Fri 20th November**

**All are between 10am and 11am.**

**CHRIST CHURCH  
YOUTH  
CLUB**

Debbie and I were very pleased to take a small group of young people to AngelSpace at Rochester Cathedral on Sunday 21st June.

AngelSpace is a young peoples worship held 4 times a year organised by the Diocesan Board of Education. The evening started with worship lead by a youth music group from a church in Gillingham, followed by activities based on 'Crystal Maze', finishing with a sermon by "Dave".

Ian Brown



The next Angelspace is in September followed by one in November.

# A Churchwarden's Notes

Christine and I recently underwent the annual "swearing-in" ceremony at the Cathedral, in which every churchwarden begins their new year in office. The role, in which we represent the Bishop in the church, and whose responsibilities are briefly "to ensure that the PCC maintains, cares for and insures the church buildings and its contents", but also includes the more formal duties seen by everyone during main church services. Not seen, but equally important is the ritual week by week of counting the takings and taking them to the bank!

In churches much older than ours, the churchwardens had a far greater position in a village than almost anyone else. Assistance to the poor from the 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards was given by the churches and was managed and given out by the churchwardens; and pious bequests to the church (which were increasing in number) began to be invested, administered and supervised. Independent parish funds were set up at this time. Local government as we know it today sprang from the many early parish duties regarding roads, schools and other such things, which all began with being parish responsibilities.

Christ Church began its life at a time when many of those responsibilities were being passed to secular organisations, but fifty years were to pass before our school was relinquished; at least one of the churchwardens commemorated by a window in the church was it's secretary. One of it's teachers was our organist.

Today we churchwardens still have much to do and be responsible for. Any householder knows what a building needs on an almost continual basis. A church is no different - just somewhat bigger. It has to be kept from damage (intended and otherwise); it has to be kept warm and lit. It has to be furnished; it has to have all it needs to carry out its functions; and it has certain legal requirements to fulfil. There is a deal of monitoring carried out - inspections of this and that at regular intervals. We have just had a complete check of all the electrical circuits in the buildings. All such things come with a price tag!

We have to keep what is known as the "Terrier". This, apart from noting all the land belonging to the church, has to include an inventory of all the church's property, and we have to keep a logbook of all alterations, additions and repairs.

Christine and I share our responsibilities. It is easier for me to do some of them, since I am closer at hand. Sue is of course nearer, but why should the vicar have to do all the menial tasks? Christine organises the sidesmen and oversees the Pre-School, helping to sort out its many problems as far as the church is concerned. Of course we don't do these things alone, and are so grateful for those who rally to our assistance when needed.

July 2009  
Peter Shearan



# Summer Supper

In aid of **christian aid**

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July

7.30 for 7.45 p.m. in the church hall

Tickets £5 adults, £3 children under 12 years

Raffle

Please bring your own drinks and glasses



Margot Edwards  
invites you to a Coffee Morning  
Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July - 10am to 12 noon  
At:- 48 Windsor Road  
In aid of OXFAM BOOK FEST

Please bring a book or books which we can sell in the  
Gravesend shop. Do hope you can come.

# ANY CHURCH MAGAZINES?

It is a legal requirement that church records are lodged in a secure place and in proper conditions. It used to be that the church kept all its old papers, often for hundreds of years. Today's thinking is that this is not the best way to preserve historical documents; and, in this day and age when many people are anxious to research local history, preservation is important.



Peter Shearan has been putting together a collection of past magazines. Many came as gifts when Peter was writing the history a few years ago. He is now looking for any others which might well be in private hands, but which are no longer needed. There is already a lot of material about our church in the local archives in Strood: such things as the baptisms, marriages and burial records; the administrative files; and other such material. Historians, however, are always anxious to go behind those often dry and dusty facts in order to find the day-to-day happenings and thoughts of people - and here is where magazines come into their own. Peter would love to hear from you if you happen to be in possession of such magazines. His collection ranges from the 1920s onwards.

Does anyone have photographs taken of or at St Faiths? Or photographs of groups of people - the choir, Baden-Powell organisations, womens' groups? All will be welcomed; get in touch.

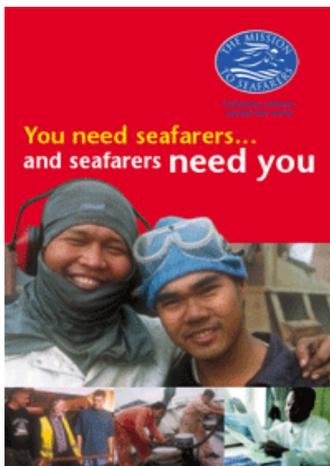
*Peter Shearan*

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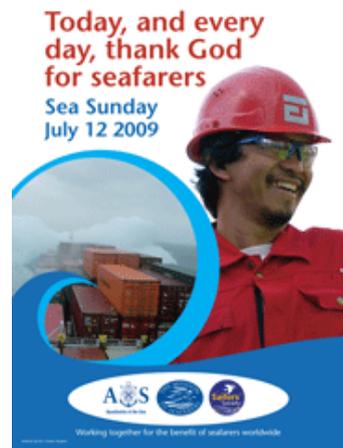
## Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

5th	July	Week 1	Vena Croyden, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson, Charmaine Bultman
12th	July	Week 2	Norma Flynn, Sandy Barden, Jenny Shoemsmith
19th	July	Week 3	David and Shirley Whitehead
26th	July	Week 4	Margaret Davies, Sheila and Ian Brown
2nd	Aug	Week 5	Barbara Bunyan, Audrey Price, Mary Sargeant

Maureen Fittell



# THANK GOD FOR SEAFARERS SEA SUNDAY - JULY 12 2009



## Psalm 23 Nautical Version

The Lord is my Pilot, my ship is well stored.  
He steereth me into the harbours of abundance  
and guides my feet to the broad straight streets of port cities.

Yea, though the tempest rages  
I shall not be afraid  
for He knoweth the ways of the sea  
and the strength of each ship launched upon the ocean of life.  
His compass and His steering wheel are true.  
He followeth the star which lights the way to  
the shores of immortal life.

My voyage has led me amongst pirates at sea  
and buccaneers ashore,  
but my ship and its captain have survived  
perils on land and on sea.  
I have faith that favourable winds and calm  
seas will be our lot  
so long as the voyage lasts, and that  
I shall meet the Supreme Port Captain in the  
harbour of life eternal.

Source: American Seamen, Vol. V, Nos. 3&4, Summer Fall 1945.

Submitted by Priest Jacqueline.



# First Steps

10th June 2009

It's the second Wednesday in June and time for our First Steps service once again. When Julie and I have got everything set up, we fling open the Church doors and very soon a lovely lively crowd of children joins us with their Mums and Grannies and it is time for our service to begin. We seem to have lost our usual pianist today so Anne volunteers to take her place, which is a relief. Today we are thinking about how God created our beautiful world and everything in it including us, and how lucky we are to be here. We get to the part where God created animals and we realise that our naughty little sheep is missing. So the children and I set off to see where he's hidden himself. There's great excitement, as the children look under chairs and high up on windowsills but he's nowhere to be seen. We're about to give up when suddenly there is a loud shout. "He's up there, he's up there." And lo and behold, Libby has spotted him, on the top of the bookcase near the south door. Well done, Libby! I carefully get him down and Libby takes charge of him for the rest of our service.

We sing some of our favourite animal songs like "Here come the

Frogs." and say our "Thank you" prayers to God for the our beautiful world and His love for us and then it's time to light some special candles. One is for Matthew who is a big boy of 4 now and one is for Martha who has just had her 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. And of course we all join in singing a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" to them and our naughty little sheep joins in too.

When our service is over and the candles have been blown out, we all go into the Hall for a munch, a chat and time to play. The children have been good in church and now it's time for them to let off steam. They're all having a great time playing and not to be left out our naughty little sheep joins in, playing with Libby and Erin. I'm not exactly sure what they've been playing at but eventually he comes back to me, exhausted and with his wool all mucky. Erin tells me that he's had a busy day. He certainly has and he'll need a bath tonight! As usual we've had a lovely, noisy time together and our naughty little sheep and I hope they'll all join us again when we meet on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

God Bless. Rosemary Austin

# Chalk Village Fête a great day out.

Chalk Village invites you all to come to its community fête, held on the St Mary's Woodland open space next to Chalk Church, Church Lane, Chalk on **Saturday 11th July 2009.**

The entrance is free and the day runs from 11.30am until 3pm.

The event is held in the lovely landscape of Chalk Church Hill, with views across the marshes and Thames Estuary - an experience enhanced by the ability to go up the tower of Chalk Church.

Come and enjoy a relaxing lunch in a village atmosphere.

There is car parking, although not unlimited.

Chalk welcomes you - come and pay us a visit - you know you'll enjoy the experience.

Christoph Bull

SUNDAY MORNING

COFFEE

We need two or three more helpers with coffee

Would you like to be on the rota?

On average you would help four or five times a year

If not could you be on a list to cover holidays etc.?

Please let Maureen Fittle know if you interested or give your name to anyone serving coffee.

Thank you

Maureen Fittle

Also help would be appreciated with putting tables and chairs out in the hall and putting them away after coffee.





Soroptimist International of  
Gravesend & District

## Domestic Abuse

A Talk by Annette

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009**  
at  
**Christ Church Hall,  
Old Road East, Gravesend**  
**7.30 p.m. for 8.00 p.m.**  
**Entrance £2.00**  
(Includes Tea or Coffee and  
Biscuits)

### Raffle

*All profits to President's Charities*



EllenorLions Hospices  
"Without them we would have been lost"

Join us on our  
**SPONSORED COUNTRYSIDE WALK**  
Cobham Park—Sunday 19th July 2009

- Choose your distance:
- Darnley Doodle - 1 mile
- The Half Hike - 3 miles
- Poppy Party - 5 miles
- Bread Pudding Break - 8 miles

(1 mile is suitable for prams)

An exceptional opportunity to walk through the stunning historical grounds of Cobham Park and Ranscombe Farm Reserve

Christchurch sits firmly in Echo Square and we are investigating this over the next few months by interviewing people whose lives make up this community.

This month I visited Alex at **Bride and Groom Ltd..**

**How long have you been at Echo Square?**

*3 Years but we also have a shop in Bromley High Street which has been there for 20years.*

**Why did you choose Echo Square?**

*We all live in the area and knew the shop. We liked it when it was Country Charm, and when the shop became vacant we decided to buy it. It is a good setting for this shop.*

**What can you tell me about the building?**

*Not a lot. It is obviously old as it appears on old photos of Echo Square. Before we bought it, it was Country Charm; an Antique Shop before that and a Greengrocers before that.*

*We have the Men's showroom, changing room and office downstairs and a large attractive bridal showroom and fitting room upstairs.*

**How many staff do you have?**

*There are 3 staff. It is a family business. Alex runs the bridal side and Chris, her fiancé, runs the Menswear department downstairs. Angela, a cousin also helps in the Bridal department.*

**What do you offer to customers?**

*We have a wide range of wedding dresses to sell, also bridesmaids dresses, head dresses, bags and shoes. We try to offer each customer one and a half hour appointments and we only book in one wedding at any one time to give best attention to each one.*

*Downstairs Chris has a wide range of suits, waistcoats, ties, cravats, cufflinks and shoes for men mainly to hire though all can be ordered to purchase. Only the white/cream suits are for sale only as they could mark easily.*

*Bookings need to be made at least 2-3 weeks in advance for a Saturday appointment which is our busiest day. We do mainly fittings during the week though can be flexible.*

*Our contact number is 01474 567491.*

*Once fitted, our clothes go to the workshop in Bromley to be altered.*

**What is it like running a business in Echo Square?**

*It was a very good move to open here. We have a lot of passing traffic and change our windows every 2 weeks to keep them fresh and interesting. The windows are positioned well for advertising and we have clients from Gravesend, from Kent and from as far away as Leeds!*

*There is easy parking over the road.*

*Families who come along for dress fittings often gather in the Echo pub over the road first!*

**Do you feel ChristChurch is part of the community?**

*Yes. Sometimes brides we have dressed get married at ChristChurch and we are able to go along and see them at the church.*

*Sheila Brown*

**Footnote:** Knowing Alex and Chris were engaged I commented that she would be spoilt for choice when choosing her own dress. Alex said she thought it would be harder! I guess she has seen what we all look like in different styles!!

# Hall Spring Clean

The Hall committee are organising a 2-Day Spring Clean of the hall on August 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.

There will be 2 sessions on each day -  
morning sessions from 10 - 12 o'clock  
afternoon sessions from 2 - 4 o'clock.

There will be a list of jobs which will include such things as chair and table cleaning, window cleaning, kitchen cupboard cleaning and sorting, inventory of all items currently in use etc. If we are to complete this important job in the time envisioned we are asking for volunteer help on these days. Any offers will be accepted even though you may feel able to help for just a part of the time and any such offer will be put to good use.

The hall is an important part of our church life and used by many people. We do need to take proper care of it so that we can present it in the best way we can. From comments received by our users this facility is much appreciated and is a good advert for our church.

So, please if you can offer help in any way sign the form at the back of the church and come along on any part of those days. In this way we will be able to assign jobs and make best use of our time.

Thank you.

Joan Bennett.

## GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY

July, the time of very active growth in the garden. To maintain this growth, water and feed should be given. Try to water the plants especially those in containers before they call for it and wilt. Feed should be applied little and often. It is a waste to use liquid feed stronger than recommended, as it will only leach though during normal watering bypassing the plants roots. Any shrubs that have flowered can be pruned back, particularly the strong growers such as Dogwoods and Wisterias. Roses should be regularly dead-headed preferably before they have produced hips. Rhododendrons and Azaleas must have their dead flowers removed, by now they should be easily pinched out. This will help prevent diseases attacking next year's flowering buds.

ADAM

BRING AND BUY  
Please

Join

Us!

Between



CUPPA FOR OUR CAUSE 5-12 July

10am and 8pm Friday 10th July 09

You are invited to join us

Sandy and Ted

at

63 Portland Avenue

Gravesend

As we support local charity

Alzheimer's & Dementia

SUPPORT SERVICES

Cuppa For Our Cause

ADSS (Registered Charity No 1024385)

provides a unique range of services to people with dementia and their families in Gravesham, Dartford & Swanley

Choir

# Music at Christ Church



Dear People of Christ Church,

As you have probably heard, I am retiring from my position of organist and choir director at the end of December 2009.

I have been involved in the music of Christ Church for many years. I was first introduced to the mysteries of the organ by Arthur Lansley. He took me on as his assistant when I was sixteen (a few years ago!). After college I returned as assistant to several other organists. When Robert Featherstone decided to take holy orders I took over temporarily. I have been doing it for the past twenty six or so years!

Before I leave, the choir and I have several 'special events'. The first is choir Sunday on 19<sup>th</sup> July. At 10 am we will introduce a new setting to the Eucharist, an introit and anthem. We then have lunch together and return at 6.30 pm for Sung Evensong. We would love to have your support on 'our day', so hope you can manage to share it with us.

In September we will be taking part in the Deanery Choir Evensong, this year to be held at Shorne Parish Church. Then we have the festivals of the Autumn term and Christmas. No time to relax..

If there are any people wanting to know what is involved with the view to helping out next year, I would be happy to talk to them. My job can easily be split into two, organist and / or choir director.

I do hope that the rich musical heritage we have at Christ Church will continue for many years to come.

We all appreciate the support you give us and look forward to more of the same in the future.

Best wishes,  
Gwyneth (Charles).

Music  
Group



With the longest day not long behind us we are already turning our thoughts to the autumn and Harvest and have started to look at suitable songs and anthems. We only meet twice a month so we have to start our preparations early!

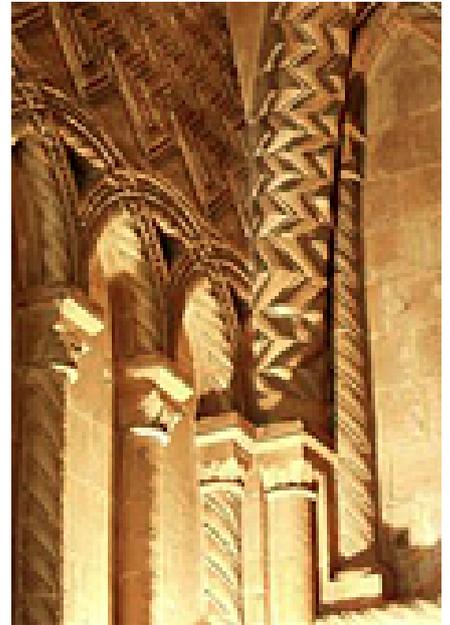
We have introduced a few new songs over the past few months and we had great fun learning the new 'Gloria' which we sang for the first time at last month's parade service. It is not easy to clap with a sheet of music in your hands. Still I am sure we will soon master it.

If you feel the urge to come and sing with us, especially if you are male, we would love to see (or even hear) you!

Gill Campbell

# Bristol Cathedral

In the past this was an abbey church. It has a vaulted ceiling. There are attractive alcoves, some of which are painted with red and gold. In the floor the graves stones indicate that in the past man's life span was just to sixty. Some memorials told of the person's attributes and these were very interesting. There was a sculpture of the holy family. It had been done by an artist in Zimbabwe. This was very smooth and tactile. I went to the refectory for coffee. I was advised to take it into the garden. It was so peaceful there. The plants tended to cover the old graves. It was very beautiful.



The church service was very much the same as ours. The children or happy hippos left us at the start of the readings. They returned at communion. Communion was taken standing. I think otherwise the only difference was the old version of the Lord's Prayer. I commend this Cathedral as well worth a visit.

Jill Sampson

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A big thankyou to everyone who worked so hard to make "Christ Church Going Green" such a success.

## Summer Fair

There were lots of well stocked attractively displayed stalls along with delicious food and of course refreshing cups of tea, not forgetting the strawberries and cream which completely sold out! We were able to enjoy the newly replanted grounds all around the church on what proved to be a beautiful summer's afternoon. It was good to see lots of new faces as well as old friends enjoying themselves. We are pleased to say that we made approximately £200 more than last year (not bad in a credit crunch) and this would not have been possible without everyone who supported Christ Church by coming and buying.

Thank you very much.

Sheila, Margot, Margaret, Peter, Anne, Veronica, Angela, Linda and Colin,

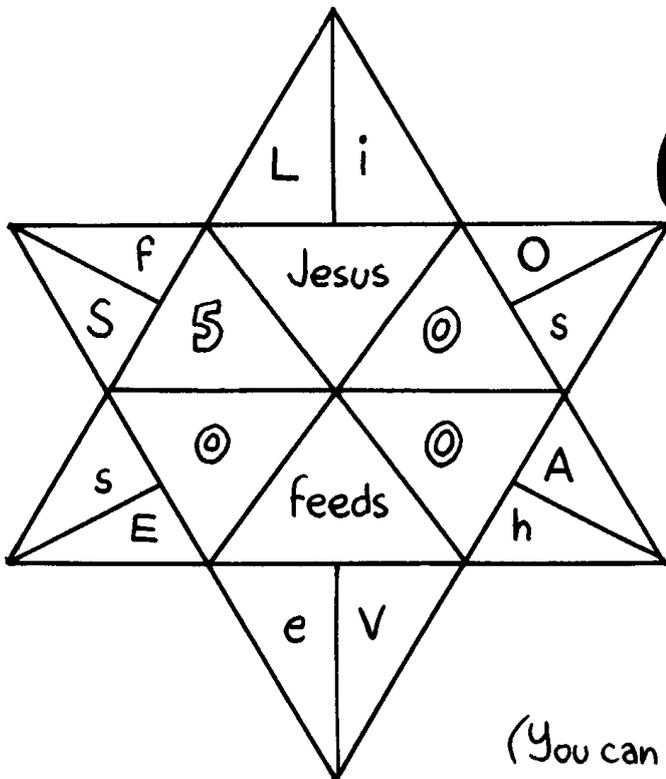
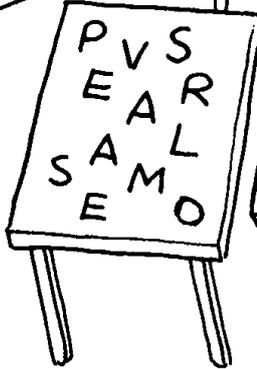
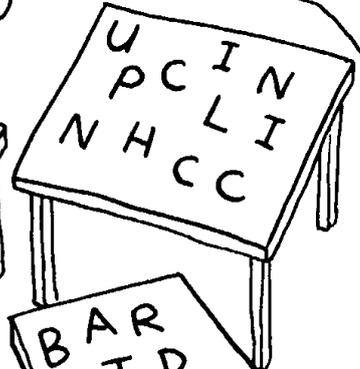
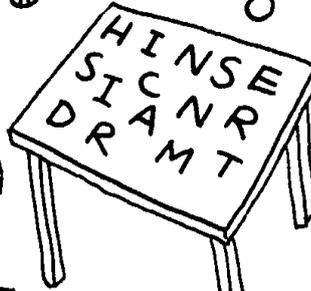
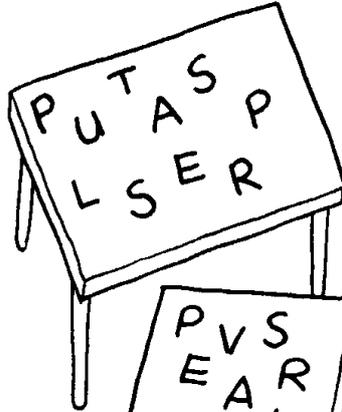
# God's Gang



Which meal is at which table?

## Special Meals

- PASSOVER MEAL
- BIRTHDAY TEA
- CHRISTMAS DINNER
- LAST SUPPER
- WEDDING FEAST
- PICNIC LUNCH



## COLOUR the star:

- RED** All the letters of 'LOAVES'
- GREEN** All the letters of 'fishes'
- YELLOW** All the numbers of 5000
- BLUE** The words 'Jesus' and 'feeds'

(You can find the whole story in Matthew 14: 13-22)

# Summer Supper

# July

Sunday



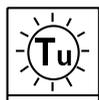
	5 8 am Service 10 am Service	12 8 am Service 10 am Service MU annual service Sea Sunday	19 8 am Service 10 am Service Choir Sunday 6.30pm Choral Evensong	26 8 am Service 10 am Service
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Monday



	6 Open Church Cubs Brownies	13 Open Church Cubs Brownies	20 Open Church Cubs Brownies	27 Open Church Cubs Brownies
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Tuesday



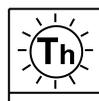
	7 OXFAM Bookfest Soroptimist meet 7.30 Church Hall	14 RMA Cheese and Wine social	21	28
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Wednesday



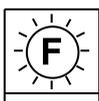
1 Guides MU Summer Social 8pm	8 1.45 pm First Guides	15 Steps Guides	22 Guides	29
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Thursday



2 Beavers Brownies	9 Beavers Brownies	16 Open Church coffee Beavers Brownies	23 Beavers Brownies	30
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Friday



3 Open Church Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	10 Open Church Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	17 Open Church Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office Hours	24 Open Church Parent & Toddler Scouts Office Hours Summer Supper	31 Open Church
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Saturday



4 Working Party	11 Chalk community fete	18 Schools close for summer holidays	25	
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# 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

## Open Church

Monday to Friday  
10 am until 11.30 am

## 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

