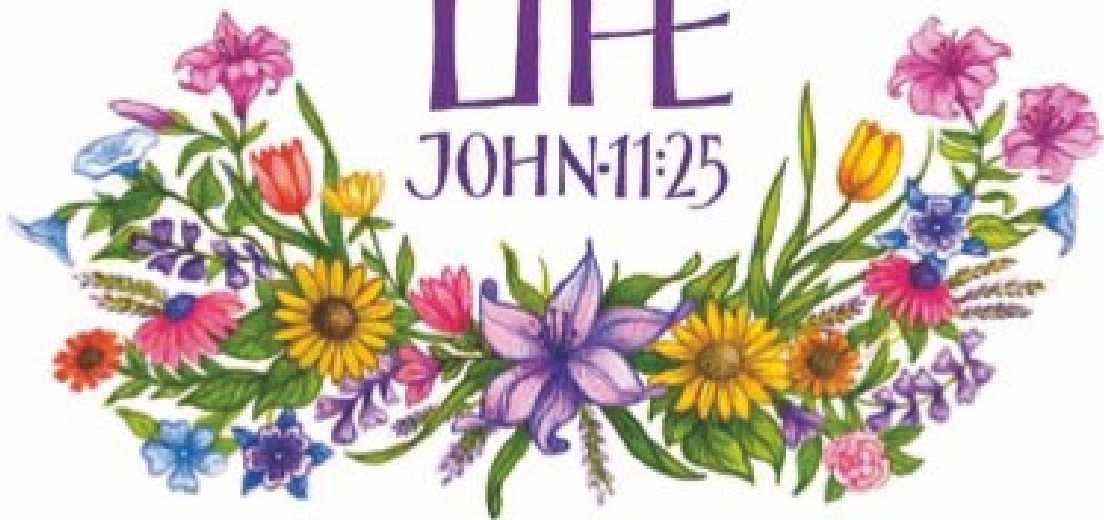


I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

JOHN-11:25



APRIL 2015

Donation or **40p**



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

see page 4

EASTER DAY SERVICES

see page 7

Scan the smart
code below to go
to our web site



IN REVIEW available at <http://www.churchofengland.org>

Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday, 19 April for May,
Copy: email to:-
ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

Inside this Month

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Christ Church Hall is available for hire
Contact Rachel Pace
01474 249508 or 07960 024917
Well equipped, very suitable for meetings and childrens parties

Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	249106
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763
Church Warden		
PCC Secretary	Linda Riordan	746988
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	249106
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Annual Parochial Meeting

As many of you will be aware, at this time our church moves into a new year with new appointments and re-election of our dwindling army of volunteers.

On Sunday 12 April, following the 10.00 am service and a welcome refreshment in the church hall, we return to the church to carry out the business of the meeting.

We look to make new appointments for Church Wardens, the people who look after fabric and day to day functions of Christ Church.

We take stock of what the parish has achieved during the past year, report of what we do for charities that we support.

We then take a look at and plan for the year ahead.



This is one of those meetings that a minority of our some 8000+ parishioners attend, but if you want to have your say in parish matters please come along even if you are not at the service beforehand.

Sue

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

semi quavers

**New youth choir in
Gravesend**

**We meet weekly for
Rehearsals**

at Christ Church

Tuesday evenings

6.15 pm to 7.30 pm

SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Monday 30th March

7.30 pm Meditation for Holy Week at St Mary's Church,
Wrotham Road, Gravesend

Tuesday 31st March

7.30 pm Meditation for Holy Week at Holy Family Church,
Palmer Avenue, Gravesend.

Wednesday 1st April

10.00 am Holy Communion at Christ Church

7.30 pm Meditation for Holy Week at Christ Church
followed by coffee and egg decorating with the Mothers Union in the
choir vestry

Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday

7.30pm An informal service of Holy Communion

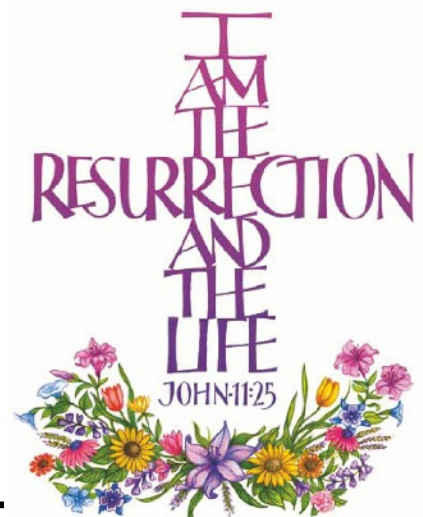
Friday 3rd April - Good Friday

10.00 am Hot Cross Bun Service

(A special service and craft activities to explore the full meaning of
Easter - for children of all ages and their carers. Followed by Hot Cross
Buns)

**12 noon-3.00 pm Mountains and
Wood - reflections for Good
Friday.**

This service is in half hour sections,
so that you
can arrive and leave as you please.



FIRST STEPS

**11TH MARCH 2015
SPRING**

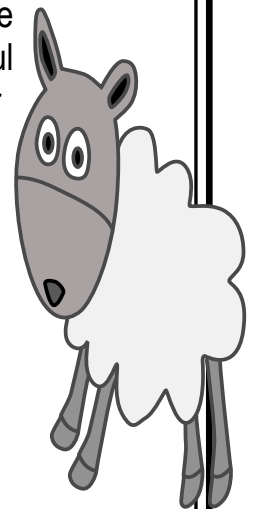
We are up to cloudy brightness this morning and our naughty little sheep is so pleased to catch a glimpse of sun. He tells me that he thinks that Spring could really be on its way. Hooray! He still hasn't had a bath and is even more stinky than he was last month. Having a bath doesn't really seem to be his thing! His friends don't seem to mind that he's a bit smelly and they love him anyway! We all walk together up to church in the sunshine and it's lovely! Our naughty little sheep's friends decide, once again, to find seats for themselves, hoping that the children will give them a cuddle. Our naughty little sheep and his friend the glittery dragon make themselves comfortable on our little altar and with everything ready, we wait patiently for our friends to arrive. First in is Granny Sheena with little granddaughter Phoebe. It is their first visit and it's lovely to make them welcome. Soon others follow and we have a happy noisy crowd for our service.

When our service has begun and our altar candles have been lit, we have three candles to light for Happy Birthdays. Our naughty little sheep and his friends love happy candles and join in with gusto as we sing "Happy Birthday". And each of those dear little animals seem to have found someone to cuddle. Lovely! Today we are thinking about the coming of Spring, such a pretty time of the year. The flowers outside the church are a feast for the eyes and we hope that everyone has seen them. We sing about having a lovely time at the park, going on swings, feeding ducks, smelling flowers and having a picnic. We all love picnics, don't we? We thank God for parks, and picnics and happy times together. It is so easy to take these things for granted and not realise how very blessed we are.

The children are all being very good, singing beautifully and jingling their bells. Our naughty little sheep and the glittery dragon are watching very intently but trying hard to stay still on our altar. We don't want any candle incidents, do we? We sing about frogs and remember that the children in the Pre-school have got a fish tank full of frogspawn in the hall so maybe next month we'll see them beginning to change into frogs. Isn't nature clever and wonderful? We thank God for the wonders of His creation. It is such a privilege to be part of it all. Yet another blessing! We sing about the seasons of the year, each with its own particular beauty for us to appreciate. Last of all we sing about Mother Hen, baby chicks and little eggs, a reminder that Easter will soon be with us. Of course we have to go through the darkness of Good Friday first, the thought of which makes our naughty little sheep and his friends shiver!

Everyone is very quiet for our prayers and then Joseph, Stanley and Henry help me to blow out the candles. Out we all go into the hall and when our naughty little sheep and his friends have had a drink and a biscuit they make themselves comfortable so that they can watch the children play. Grandmas, and Mums have a chance to catch up with each other over a cuppa and the children enjoy themselves with the toys. As always we have had a lovely time together. Our naughty little sheep and his friends and I hope that everyone will be able to join us for the Hot Cross Bun service on Good Friday and then for a joyful service on Easter Morning. Our next First Steps service will be on 8th April when we'll be thinking about the wonder of Easter. Hopefully our naughty little sheep will be fluffy, sweet and clean by then!

**God Bless,
Rosemary Austin.**





TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

Have you had a look on the Traidcraft table recently?

We have some new items for sale. You might see something that takes your fancy.

If there is something you would like to try but is not on the table have a word with John Hill

COFFEE ROYA 2015

- 29 Mar Vena Croydon, Julie Hill, Jill Sampson
- 5 Apr Sandy Barden, Jenny Shoesmith, Dorothy Oliver
- 12 Apr Sarah Bush, Kay Page, Susan Wilkins
- 19 Apr Jerry Higgins, Sally Higgins, Julieann Bodle
- 26 Apr Barbara Bunyan, Audrey Price, Bianca Mcarther



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



First Steps

FIRST STEPS

First Steps

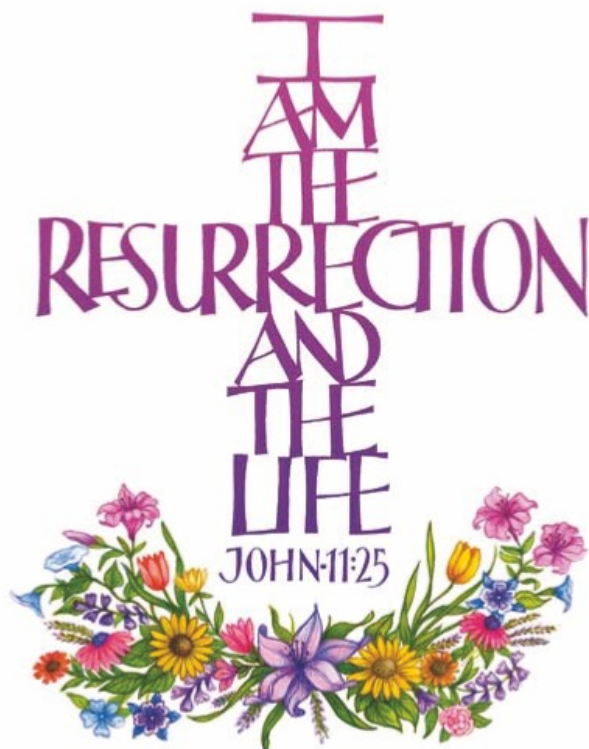
Is a service especially designed for families with pre-school children, although all children in the family are welcome to come.

We meet in the church at 1.45 pm on the second Wednesday in each month for a short service and then to enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

We are finished in plenty of time for parents to meet their other children from school.

Why not come along with your children, you will be very welcome.

Next date is Wednesday 8 APRIL.



HE IS RISEN!

Services for Easter Day

Sunday 5th April

5.30am Lighting of the Easter Fire and Service of Light -

followed by breakfast

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Celebration Communion

for the whole church family - followed by refreshments - and Easter Eggs!

6.30pm Festal Evensong

Easter is a time for family worship.

We look forward to welcoming you to any of our special services this year.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Advisory Group in partnership with Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service (CCPAS) invite you to attend

"FACING THE UNTHINKABLE"

Saturday 25 April 2015 at

St Nicholas Church, Upper High Street, Sevenoaks, TN13 1HX

Attendance is free to all those with a relevant parish responsibility, but we reserve the right to charge £20 per person towards the costs of this seminar to those booking places who fail to attend without prior notice.

Given the sensitive nature of the subject please note that children will not be admitted to the seminar



Do you help with Children's activities in Christ Church?



Have you attended Child Protection Training?

If the answer is no to the above question you should seriously consider going on this course - even if you have done some training at work. This course is especially designed for church workers.

Even if the answer is yes to the questions above you may need to find out more.

Speak to Veronica Read or Sue Brewer, or book on-line at www.rochester.org-safeguarding

GRAVESHAM FOOD BANK

Many thanks to those who support the food bank.

Below is a list of items required at the moment

Milk (UHT) - Custard
Toothpaste - Hot chocolate
Shampoo - Sweets/treats
Breakfast cereal (not porridge) - Marmite
Fruit juice/squash - Toilet roll
Sponge pudding - Deodorant
Tinned potatoes - Laundry liquid/tablets

This list is only a few of the items that can help those less fortunate than ourselves, any tinned or non-perishable items are most welcome

BIBLE NOTES

Some people find it useful to have a set portion of the Bible to read each day.

The Bible Reading Fellowship have a booklet called "New Daylight" which sets out a short Bible reading and explanatory notes. These booklets are priced at £4.25 (they do go up each year) for a four month period.

If you would like to try one of these booklets please let Julie Hill know.

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.



Pictured on the page opposite:

Top left, John Hill who has designed and painted posters to advertise services/events at Christ Church and has also run the Traidcraft stall for well over 10 years. He has now retired and was presented with a card and gift voucher as a thank you gift.

Top right three choir members received their Royal School of Church Music Light Blue Ribbon, Subomi, Tamryn and Gill Campbell

Bottom picture shows some of the always willing lady helpers putting mothers day posies together



Pictured being presented on Sunday 8 March, with a basket flower arrangement in celebration of their birthdays are:

Above: Ivy Woolcock 104 years young, and

Right: Joan Jarvis who celebrated her reaching the grand age of 101 in February.





THE MUSTARD SEED

THE Mustard Seed aims to provide an informal and friendly tea at 3.00 pm on the third Thursday of every month in Christ Church hall.

It is a venture that offers the opportunity to meet new friends and reminisce about old times.

The Mustard Seed, as the parable says (Mark4; 3-32) is very small - like dust - but has the potential to develop into one of the largest plants.

Please join us as we plant the Mustard Seed and assist to make it flourish. Who knows what may happen!

The Mustard Seed is in its second year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 16 APRIL**. You are so welcome.

For further details please contact any member of the pastoral care team. Pastoral assistants Pam Kilby, Colin Parsonson, Jasmine Humphries.

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

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

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

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

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



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



Christ Church 200 Club

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

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

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

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

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

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

Are you a member?

Why not think seriously about joining and helping your church

Contact

JOHN THRUSH

200 Club Secretary



WORKING PARTY

'In order to save on expensive cleaning and maintenance, we hold a monthly working party on a Saturday morning starting at 09.30.

Together we clean and tidy the church, do a bit of necessary DIY or gardening, have a coffee and often some home-made goodies – and finish by about 11.30.

We are enormously grateful to the few loyal helpers who turn up month after month – but we desperately need a few more.

Please consider putting the dates into your diary and coming along. All are welcome – if you can do basic DIY please let us know in advance so that the churchwardens can plan jobs in advance.

Working party is almost always on the 2nd Saturday of each month...

NOTE the next one will be on 11 APRIL at 9.30.

See you there, **Sue**

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, 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.



Gravesend & District Osteoporosis Support Group

Ellie Jewiss is running on
Sunday 26 April 2015

in the

LONDON MARATHON

For National Osteoporosis Society

Any sponsorship for her gratefully
Received

Contact Sheila 01474 564234



**FAIRTRADE
LUNCHSTOP**

FRIDAY 24 APRIL

A GOOD RANGE OF

**Sandwiches, Toasted sandwiches, Homemade cakes, Fresh
fruit, Snack bars, Fruit juices, Hot chocolate, Tea, Fresh filter
coffee**

The cost of your lunch will be what you consider to be a "Fair" price for what you eat
Come and enjoy a Fairtrade Lunch at

EMMANUAL BAPTIST CHURCH

WINDMILL ST. GRAVESEND

12 noon to 2.00 p.m.

The Kaiser's War? – First World War from a German perspective

Find out amazing tales including the only German POW who escaped from Britain back to Germany – his adventures took him from China to Gravesend in 1915. The unusual Chinese-German connection is the reason for the talk's location.

On: Thursday 30th April 2015

At: Peking Chinese Restaurant, 157-158 Milton Road, Gravesend

Time: Event begins at 7pm with the talk, followed by a Chinese meal.

Tickets essential as places limited which cost £17 for the talk and a meal afterwards.

To book: Mr Loong (at Peking Restaurant) on 01474 533093.
Information on the talk: Christoph Bull 07702287147.

Illustrated talk on Greenhithe

Speaker: Christoph Bull

On: Tuesday 5th May 2015

Begins: 7pm

At: TJ's public house, 15 Milton Road, Gravesend DA12 2RF

Price: £7.50 includes buffet and first drink.

Booking via TJ's on 01474 533891

Guided historical walk – Lord Darnley's Gravesend

Guide: Christoph Bull - 07702287147

On: Friday 8th May 2015

Begins: 11.30am

Meet: Outside Victoria Adult Education Centre, Darnley Road, Gravesend

Price: £3 per head – no need to book just turn up.

CHRIST CHURCH TOTS

For babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers

Come and enjoy this fun and friendly Parent and Toddler group. We have a wide range of toys including ride-ons, trikes, push-chairs and slides

Baby area, crafts and play dough. Large garden area in good weather. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits

Friday 1.15-2.30 p.m. term time

£1.50 per family

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

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00 am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday All-Age service

Evening Service - see inside magazine for details.

Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Monday and Saturday 8am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.

Wednesday 10.00am

For further information

Contact

The Church Wardens




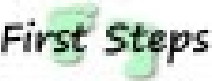

Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)	
Monday	Music Group; Brownies	
Tuesday	Cubs and Semiquavers	
Wednesday	Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)	
	First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm	
	Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday)	
Thursday	Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice:	
3.00 p.m.	Mustard Seed (every third)	
Friday	Scouts; Parent and Toddler	
Saturday	Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second)	

CALENDAR APRIL 2015

Sunday 		5 EASTER DAY 05.30 Service of Light 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.00 Evensong	12 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	19 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	26 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.00 Choral Service
Monday 		6 08.00 Service	13 08.00 Service BROWNIES	20 08.00 Service BROWNIES	27 08.00 Service BROWNIES
Tuesday 		7 07.00 Service	14 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	21 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	28 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers
Wednesday 	1 10.00 Service 19.30 Meditation for Holy Week led by the Mothers Union	8 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps	15 10.00 Service	22 10.00 Service	29 10.00 Service
Thursday 	2 07.00 Service 19:30 Maundy Thursday Holy Communion	9 07.00 Service Choir practice	16 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed BROWNIES Choir practice	23 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	30 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice
Friday 	3 GOOD FRIDAY 10:00 Hot Cross Bun Service 12:00 3 hour devotion for Good Friday	10 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours	17 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	24 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	31 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS
Saturday 	4 HOLY SATURDAY	11 08.00 Service Working Party 09.30	18 08.00 Service	25 08.00 Service 10.00 Marriage preparation	



Gravesham Citizens Advice Bureau

New Citizens Advice Bureau Drop-in

**Venue: Northfleet Veteran's Club, The Hill,
Northfleet, DA11 9EU**

**Every Friday morning
10.30-12.30**

No appointment needed!

**Help with Employment, Housing, Consumer,
Relationships, Benefits, Debt problems... and much m
ore**

***Free,
independent, confidential and impartial advice.***

www.graveshamcab.org.uk

