

#### CHRIST CHURCH MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

#### PARISH MAGAZINE March 2016

Donation or 40p

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Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Wednesday 16 March for April

Copy: email to:ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

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

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#### Who's Who at Christ Church

www.christchurchgravesend.org.uk

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com	
Associate Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106	
Assistant Curate	Karen Seggie	362654	
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693	
Pastoral Assistant	Jasmine Humphries	249106	
Pastoral Assistant	Colin Parsonson	359713	
Church Warden	Jan Osborne	740763	
Church Warden	Andy Nailor	564581	
PCC Secretary	Linda Riordan	746988	
PCC Treasurer	Steve Humphries	249106	
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702	
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339	
Reader	John Hougham	352138	
Reader	Reader Betty Martin		
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443	
Christ Church Milton-Next-Gravesend Page 2 MARCH			

# **Rosary Basilica**

The Basilica of our Lady of the Rosary (French: Notre Dame du Rosaire de Lourdes) is a Roman Catholic church and minor basilica within the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. Its main theme is a celebration and depiction of the Rosary.

The Rosary Basilica is the third of the churches to be completed on the site (after the Crypt and the Upper Basilica). It was designed by architect Leopold Hardy and completed in 1899. It was consecrated in 1901 and has a capacity of 1,500 worshippers. Its style is influenced by Byzantine architecture.



In 2006-7 the interior and exterior of the basilica were extensively renovated and the mosaics (many of which were deteriorating) were restored.

Back cover picture is: Mosaïque d'une des chapelles de la Basilique Notre-Dame du Rosaire (niveau inférieur):la Résurrection.

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.



Christ Church Milton-Next-Gravesend

# Help needed...

... to decorate the church ready for Easter Day.

**9.30am on Saturday 26th March for those willing to help with making floral decorations for the window sills** (full instructions given)

10.30am for any who can help to dust, polish, sweep and tidy the church for Easter.

Tea, coffee and Hot Cross Buns will be provided to keep you going!

# **WORKING PARTY**

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

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

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

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

Working party is almost always on the second Saturday of each month... NOTE the next one will be on 12 March at 9.30.

See you there, **Sue** 

#### **COPY FOR THE 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 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, or speak to Mike Cubitt - 07840343831

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# FIGET STEPS

#### 10™ FEBRUARY 2016 ASH WEDNESDAY LENT BEGINS.

Our naughty little sheep isn't up quite as early as usual this morning. He tells me that he doesn't feel like rushing out of bed because it feels chilly and the sky looks grey outside. But when I remind him that it's our First Steps service this afternoon, he cheers up immediately. The morning flies by and soon it's time for him, his friends and I to make our way up to church. Though it is still cloudy there are flashes of sunshine and the daffodils and pansies in the church garden look lovely. They've been out for ages and they're still going strong. Our naughty little sheep tells me that the teeny daffs are his favourites and I have to agree. The miracle of nature is all around us.

In church everyone gets comfortable in their special places as I get things ready. Linda and Jan are slaving away in the hall, too, getting out the toys and preparing the refreshments. With our doors open, first in today is Ros with her daughter Evie and friend Rhiannan. How lovely to see them. Then C.T. follows with little son Callum, who is a real sweetie! Others begin to arrive, too, and Megan has brought her special toy dog Daisy and Daisy's puppy who looks suspiciously like Spot! We just never know who is going to turn up, do we? Soon we have a crowd, and with jingle bells ready and our candles lit, we begin our service.

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, so we think about Jesus going into the desert to have some quiet time with God. We sing "I like eating" as we remember some of the things that Jesus is giving up for those forty days. Our naughty little sheep whispers to me that he doesn't think that the desert is a very nice place for Jesus. He thinks that it's a bit scary. With the devil there, tempting Jesus, I think it is a very scary place, too, but Jesus is not afraid. He is strong, refusing to give in to the devil and all his sweet talking temptations. Lent is a time when we think about our relationship with God and how important it is to us. God loves us and He wants us to be kind, loving and generous, too. We sing, "Share it round]" to remind us that it is important for us to care about other people especially those who haven't got all the good things that we have. Everybody is joining in with our songs and jingling those bells beautifully. Our naughty little sheep and his friends are having a really good time.

We know that it is a rather chilly, grey day and we look forward to the Spring coming. Even with those flowers outside it isn't Spring yet, it's still Winter. We sing about the beauty of the seasons and we thank God for our beautiful world, for Jesus' love and for all the gifts that He gives to us each day. Everyday is a blessing for us, filled with miracles for us to appreciate and enjoy.

When we have said our prayers and our candles have been blown out, it's time to go into the Hall to have some playing time and some chatting time, with a biscuit and a cuppa. As usual our naughty little sheep and his friends rush out to be at the front of the queue. You'd never think that it's Lent! They tell me that they're all going to be good from tomorrow. I fear that it may always be tomor-

row! Still they love watching the children play and the Mums, Grandmas and Dad CT chatting. It's quality time! What more could anyone ask? They hope that everyone will come again for our next First Steps service on the 9th March when Spring really will be on the way. Hooray! God Bless, Rosemary Austin



HOLY BAPTISM 17<sup>th</sup> January

Riley Benjamin Barnett Vida Beatrice Howett

#### REST IN PEACE

19<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2<sup>nd</sup> January 12<sup>th</sup> January 19<sup>th</sup> January

Ian Robert Clover Norah Phyllis Penfold Jenny May Colin David Danton Stanley Lloyd Bond

#### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**Special Services for Holy Week and Easter** 

#### **Passion Sunday**

Sun 13th March

10.00 am Journey to the Cross A reflection on the cross of Christ in readings, hymns and choral music

Mon 21st March

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

Tues 22nd March 7.30p Meditation for Holy Week at St Aidan's Church, St Aidan's Way

#### Wed 23rd March

10.00 am Holy Communion
7.30pm Agape Meal at St Aidan's Church.
Please book in advance for catering purposes — 01474 352500

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Thurs 24th March7.30 pmHoly CommunionWe re-live the events of the night of Jesus' arrest. The church will be open afterwards until 10pm, for silent prayer.

#### **Good Friday**

Fri 25th March10 amHot Cross Bun ServiceEspecially for children and young people and their families... the story of the<br/>cross, activities for Good Friday, and buns!

**12.00—15.00** Were you there? Come for as long as you like—arrive or leave on the hour or at 1/2 past the hour.

#### Easter Day

Sun 27th March Followed by breakfast

8am 10am and Easter e

05.45

Holy Communion Celebration Communion

Followed by refreshments and Easter eggs!

6.30pm

Festal Evensong

**Dawn Service of Light** 

Don't forget—the clocks go forward on 26th March

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# **MOTHERING SUNDAY**



#### 6th March

an all-age service with posies of flowers for children to give to their mums. (please note – this month the monthly all-age service is on the first Sunday of the month)

# Passion Sunday

## **13th March**

The morning service at 10am on 13th March will be a programme of bible readings, hymns and choral items as we re-tell the story of Christ's passion; ending with a short



service of Holy Communion.

There will be extended God's Gang activities in the church hall for children up to the age of 14 during this service.



# The Lent course

By reflecting on the poetry of the Psalms, we will explore creative ways to express our faith, as we journey through Lent together.

This year's Lent Course will be shared with other churches of the East Gravesend Cluster.

Sessions are on Wednesday -In the mornings at 11 am at St. George's Church, followed by an optional soup lunch at 12 noon.

In the evenings at 7.30 pm

2nd March at St. Mary's, Wrotham Road -Wonder 9th March at St. Aidan's, St. Aidan's Way - The Way 16th March at Christ Church—Hope



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 David Williams

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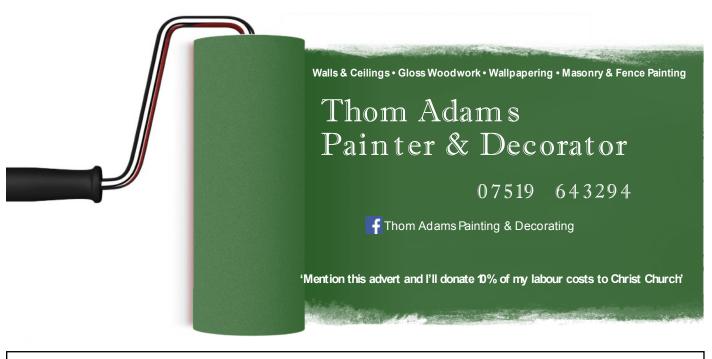


Below are details of Christ Church's giving to charities and good causes with money donated for that purpose.

<b>Income</b> Lent Envelopes Good Causes	£2,914 <u>£ 688</u>		£3,602	
Expenditure Hands of Compass WaterAid Church Army The Parents' Conse Emergency - Nepal Palm Crosses Holy Trinity School Whitehill School Sanctuary	ortium each £720	£2,880 214 70		
Gravesend Street Pastors Gravesend and District Osteoporosis Support Group Larchwood Grove each £73 <u>438</u> £3,602				

We also sent £657 to Christian Aid - that is two breakfasts, coffee morning and a quiz,

£1,347 to the local Foodbank and £280 for Aly, our sponsored child in the Middle East.



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# **CHRIST CHURCH MOTHERS'** UNION



#### **9TH FEBRUARY 2016**

Twenty-one members of our Mothers' Union branch met in the Church Hall for our AGM, this evening.

First of all Sue, our Vicar, who is also a member of branch. celebrates communion. She our comments on the world wide fellowship of the Mothers' Union which does all kinds of valuable work supporting marriage and family life both here and in some of the most deprived parts of our world. Family life is indeed a great gift to us but it is nice to know that help and support is at hand when we need it and the Mothers' Union is very good at providing loving support.

Having celebrated communion together our meeting begins.

It is a time to remember the things that we have done together over the past year and we have had a very rich programme of events including garden parties and talks about the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide, Osteoporosis, and Autism among others things. We also learned the art of tying scarves, in 50 different ways, which was great fun! We had a trip to Eltham Palace on the hottest day of the year, mostly confining ourselves to the beautiful house rather than running the gauntlet of the scorching hot gardens. Over tea and cakes we all vowed to return when it's a bit cooler and we'll have a chance to appreciate the beauty of the gardens without getting heat stroke! Then home in a traffic jam, so lots to talk about afterwards.

Our branch has raised considerable funds during this last year, a lot coming from raffles including one for a knitted Nativity set and one for a Simnel



cake. Many thanks to all of you who supported them so generously. Through our fundraising we have been able to donate £400 this year to support Mothers' Union charities. So well done everyone! When the business part of our meeting is over we all feast on pancakes, provided by Christine Sewell and Jan Osborne. Well, it is Shrove Tuesday, after all! They are yummy, of course, and many of us are tempted to have two! There are a number of toppings to choose from; traditional lemon juice and sugar, maple syrup and cream or chocolate and hazelnut spread. Decisions, decisions! See what a good time we have in the Mothers' Union! And now we are all suitably strengthened to face the rigors of Lent!

Because our membership has grown we are now meeting in the Church Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. Our next meeting will be on the 8th March when Peter Shearan will be giving us a talk about the Memorial Stone on which there was a role of honour of those in our parish who lost

their lives in the First World War. A new stone, engraved with original the names, has been commissioned as part of our commemorations of the Great War. Everyone is most welcome to join us for what promises to be fascinating а talk.



The lady cooks! And how many hit the floor?

# Chinese New Year of the Monkey

Community Square 9th February. Mayor feeds leaves to the lion.

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ennet



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Picture gallery of Christ Church Guides, Brownies, Beavers and the newly formed Rainbow group at the All Age worship. On 14 February.

Mrs Doris Balzan, Thames Division Commissioner gave a talk about the Division Standard, depicting the Thames, PLA. Thames sailing barges, Charles Dickens, Pocahontas the White Horse of Kent, Guide Badge and local health authority.



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# 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

#### from recent edition of "IN REVIEW"

#### Save the date -Godparents' Sunday May 1st 2016

The first ever Sunday to celebrate the unique role of Godparents will take place on May 1st 2016. An initiative of the Archbishops' Council Projects and Development Team, the dedicated day is response to research looking at а parent's real experiences and expectations around the baptism of their child. Churches throughout the Church of England are invited to use this date to celebrate all that godparents contribute to the amazing journey of faith. This is a great opportunity to invite recent baptism families to come along with godparents to a special service, but is also a chance to get all those in the congregation who are godparents or godchildren to pray for one another.

Special invitations will be available online from Monday March 7. And there's a whole host of other materials to help make the day stand out. There will be downloadable prayers and liturgies specifically written for the day all available shortly from:www.churchsupporthub.org

Dr Sandra Millar Head of the Projects and Development Team said: "Setting apart a Sunday to celebrate and pray for this special relationship is a great opportunity to share with families and ask for God's blessing on godparents and godchildren everywhere. Churches can invite recent baptism families to come along with godparents to a special service, but is also a chance to get all those in the congregation who are godparents or godchildren to pray for one another. We are offering dedicated resources for all parishes to use from Monday March 7.



#### Women's World Day of Prayer

-Praying for Cuba

Service at St Aidan's 11am

Friday 4 March

Preacher the Reverend Samantha Aspinall from St Paul's URC. Showcase Kent Exhibtion

at St Andrew's Art Centre

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 MARCH

Friday 18 March 2 pm

St Andrew's Art Centre

### Matinee Singers Concert

in aid of Children of Chernobyl

#### Friday 11 March

Mayor of Gravesham's Charity

Easter Coffee and Cake Morning

10.30 to 14.00 at The Kent Room at The Woodville Gravesend

£5 Entry includes coffee/tea and cake

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# 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 third year now, and the next gathering will be on **Thursday 17 March.** You are so welcome.

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



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# Dont forget that the clocks go forward on

#### SATURDAY 26 MARCH

Illustrated Historical Talks

#### The forgotten parish of Denton – surprising historical stories

about Denton (illustrated talk) On: Monday 29th February 2016 Speaker: Christoph Bull At: Reliance Fish Restaurant, Queen Street, Gravesend Begins: 6pm with meal, talk to follow Cost: £14 includes talk and fish and chip supper Booking essential via Reliance Restaurant on 01474 533593

#### The Kaiser's War – World War One from the other side & unusual local connections (illustrated talk)

Come and discover what Germany, China and Gravesham have in common during World War One.

On: Monday 7th March 2016

Speaker: Christoph Bull

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

Begins: 7pm with talk, meal to follow Cost: £19 with full Chinese meal and talk included Booking essential via Mr Loong on **01474 533093** 

Funnel the tunnel – A guided walk to show some of the route of Option C through our landscape.

On: Sunday 6th March 2016 Guide: Christoph Bull (Chalk Local Historian) Starts: 2.30pm Meet: Junction of Castle Lane and Lower Higham Road, Chalk The event is free – no need to book. Information: Christoph Bull 07702287147

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#### from recent edition of "IN REVIEW"

# General Synod opens with Archbishop Justin reflecting on Primates' Meeting

Addressing Synod, Archbishop Justin spoke about the Primates' Gathering and Meeting held in Canterbury in January which he said had 'occasioned much comment and even more misrepresentation'.

"We were conscious as we met in that week that literally millions, possibly tens of millions, of people were praying for us, and I have never known a week in which I have been so aware of prayer, or of pressure."

He also explained how the Primates decided on the consequence of the American Episcopal Church (TEC) altering its definition of marriage to be gender neutral. The Presiding Bishop of TEC, Michael Curry, described the Primates' decision as a fair outcome, Archbishop Justin added.

Summing up he said: "If we bring to our Church, and to the world around, the certainty that Jesus came to set us free, and to open the way for true human flourishing in service to each other and to Him; if our expectation in that only in foot

washing, even of our enemies, is the Truth demonstrated adequately, then in beauty of relationship the grace of God will prevail, as that grace did during the Primates' Meeting "Life will not be perfect, or even anything remotely approaching it. That kind of over-realised eschatology is a nonsense. There are no quick fixes, magic wands or perfect spells. There is no church order that ensures perfection, nor one in which human sin does not add to the problems of the whole.

"Yet there is a way forward that reveals the unity that we are given, and that celebrates the strength that we can bring each other; that enables us to love those who oppose us, and that focuses on human flourishing and on the setting free those who are bound by rules which Jesus could never have imagined, nor Paul...and which have emerged out of a desire for power rather than the expectation of the kingdom of God. There is, in short, a way forward in which we look like the people of Christ."

Read Archbishop Justin's full speech and watch online at <u>bit.ly/ABCSynod2016</u>

#### Bathrooms, wet rooms, cloakrooms, bathrooms to meet special needs.

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## **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					

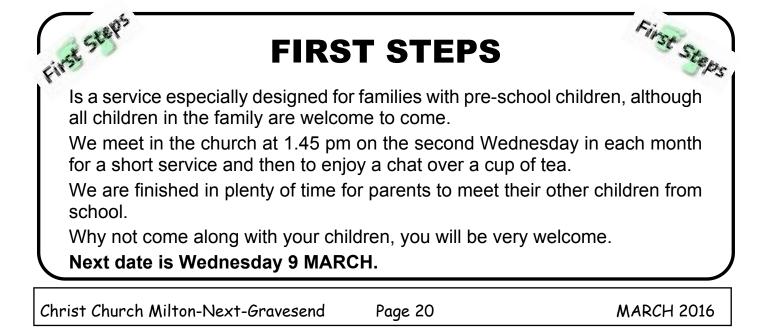
This list is only a few of the items that can help those less fortunate than ourselves, any tinned or non-perishable items are most welcome

### **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 £4.30 (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.

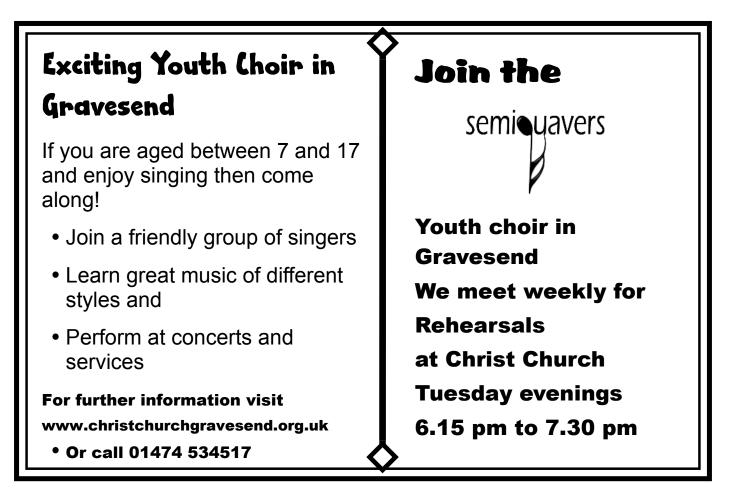


# **MRS FINCH - Church Caretaker**



Peter Shearan has published a book with the above title about a real-life lady who acted as church caretaker in Christ Church one hundred years ago. Her life began in 1835, when King William IV was on the British throne, and when stage coaches were a common sight passing through Gravesend; through the Great War; and only ended when she died at the age of 85, by which time she had witnessed many of the marvels of today's life (aeroplanes, motor cars and buses, and electric light to name only a few). Peter has woven the tale of what he has found to have been a remarkable woman around all the known facts: through doing so he has come to know her well (although he wishes he had known her personally!). His book is on sale now, price £10.

All proceeds from the sale will be going towards a planned commemoration of WWI in Autumn 2016.



# 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

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Friday 6:30 pm

6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

#### Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

There are a white variety of clubs for you				
Daily	Christ Church Pre-school (2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> upwards)			
Monday	Music Group; Brownies			
Tuesday	Mothers Union (2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers			
Wednesday	Guides Girlguiding UK			
First Steps	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 MARCH 2016**

Sunday		6 MOTHERING SUNDAY 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	13 08.00 Service 10.00 Service With words and music for Passiontide	20 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	27 EASTER DAY 05.45 service 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 18.30 Festal Evensong
Monday		7 08.00 Service BROWNIES	14 08.00 Service BROWNIES	21 08.00 Service BROWNIES	28 09.00 Service
Tuesday	1 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers	8 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers 19.30 Mother's Union in hall	15 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers	22 07.00 Service CUBS 18.30 Semiquavers	29 07.00 Service
Wednesday	<b>2</b> 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	9 10.00 Service <b>13.45 First Steps</b> 17.15 Evening Prayer	16 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	23 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	30 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer
Thursday	3 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	10 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir practice	17 07.00 Service BROWNIES 15.00 Mustard Seed Choir practice	24 MAUNDY THURSDAY 07.00 Service 19.30 Maundy Holy Communion	31 07.00 Service Choir practice
Friday	4 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	11 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	18 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	25 10.00 Hot Cross Bun Service 12.00 Three Hour Service of Devotion	
Saturday	5 08.00 Service 11.00 Baptism preparation	12 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party	19 08.00 Service	26	

ECCE PLUS OLLAO JORAS HIC LAZARE VENI FORAS

# Some scenario activity of the second LAPIDERNETSERRENT

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#### Baster Services TOP A

#### Sunday 27 March

5.45 a.m. Lighting of the Easter Fire and Service of Light - followed by breakfast

8.00 a.m. Holy Communion

**10.00 a.m. Celebration Communion** 

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

#### 6.30 p.m. Festal Evensong

Easter is a time for family worship.

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