



CHRIST CHURCH
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND



**PARISH MAGAZINE
DECEMBER 2017**



50p

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Deadline for the magazine is middle of the month prior to publication. Next month Sunday 28 December
 Copy: email to:-
 ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk
 Hand to a Church Warden or Mike Cubitt

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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 children's parties

Front cover picture: Photo taken by Lucy
 Hornby of the Advent Travellers last year.

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	Martin Sewell	745443
Reader		

The Diocese of Rochester, has launched its new five-year vision. Entitled Called Together, hundreds gathered for an afternoon of worship and celebration in Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 4 November.

The result of a year-long process of conversation, listening and prayer, the plan will guide and shape the activity of each and every person that makes up the Church across the region for the next five years. The Diocese of Rochester represents the Church of England in Medway, west Kent and parts of south east London.

Speaking about the new vision, the Rt Rev James Langstaff, the Bishop of Rochester said: *"This is a significant moment for us as a Christian community. It has implications not just for how we move forward and connect as a Church family, but how we engage and support people across our communities."*

He continued: *"It has real weight and relevance because Called Together has not been the work of one person, but has come from the dynamic engagement of everyone across the Diocese. We have prayed, talked and shared our thoughts about*

what we need to be doing more of and where we are being guided to serve as a Church."

Out of the shared conversations that took place in parishes, chaplaincies, schools, and a variety of local settings, three key priorities have been developed to help focus the work of the local Church. These are: Growing disciples, Enriching our communities, Resourcing mission and ministry. The vision includes commitments to working in the many areas of change and new housing which stretch across the region, as well as a new £500K fund to support work with Children and Young People.

As part of the launch, films highlighting some of the work already taking place around the three key areas have been created. These projects include: A church-hosted community café in Greenhithe which has recently developed an Autism friendly session

New non-clergy roles being created to help local churches help bring new and existing communities together in places like Ebbsfleet and Gillingham Pier.



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 9 December at 9.30.**

See you there, Sue

FIRST STEPS
8TH NOVEMBER 2017
JESUS AND THE BIG PICNIC

Our naughty little sheep is up bright and early and gazing out of the window to see what the weather is like. The skies look rather heavy and grey with occasional spits and spots of rain but he's beginning to get a bit more philosophical as he gets older. He doesn't worry quite so much about the weather for our First Steps service as he used to. And it is November after all! When he, his friends and I walk up to church later it is still grey but dry and with a rather chilly breeze. They all rush into church, which is toasty and warm and make themselves comfortable while I begin to get things ready for our service. I am soon joined by Linda and Jan who both pitch in. When we're all sorted and the church doors are open, we wait expectantly to see who comes in first. Soon three mums arrive together with their children; Claire with Abigail, Eleanor with Isla and new baby Max, closely followed by Leanne with Elsie and Thomas. How lovely to see them all and a very special welcome to Max who is only two weeks old. What a sweetie and fast asleep. Others quickly follow and soon we have a really lovely lively crowd. When everyone is sitting comfortably, with jingle bells ready, it's time to light our candles and begin our service.

Today we are thinking about Jesus and the Big Picnic. We all love a picnic, don't we? With all sorts of yummy food, whether you are in the countryside, a park or at the seaside, it's always great fun, isn't it? Well we hear that lots and lots of people have come to see Jesus, to hear what he has tell them and maybe make them better if they're feeling poorly. The time flies and their tummies begin to rumble. Our naughty little sheep wonders what is going to happen next. Jesus' disciples are getting anxious about these hungry people and they ask Jesus if they should send them away to find something to eat. Jesus

suggests that perhaps they could find them something to eat but they haven't got enough money to feed all these people. They find a boy who has got five barley loaves and two fishes and he's happy to share them around. The disciples think that they won't go very far in such a big crowd but Jesus tells them to sit everyone down on the grass and after he has blessed and broken the food he asks the disciples to share it out. And the food is passed from one to another and everyone takes as much as they want and when everyone had eaten and their tummies are full, there are still twelve baskets of fish and bread left over. How amazing is that? Our naughty little sheep tells me that he's heard this story lots of times before but it still surprises him. What a miracle showing God's abundant love for us; full and overflowing!

We've sung lots of our favourite songs and there has been some lovely bell jingling and now it is time for some quiet while we say our prayers. Then with our candles blown out, we make our way into the hall for a drink and biscuits, for some chat and play. When they've had a drink and a biscuit, too, our naughty little sheep and his friends watch the children play. It is one of their favourite things to do. Our next First Steps service will be on 13th December (lucky for us!) and there are no prizes for guessing what we'll be talking about. Our naughty little sheep and all his friends and I hope that everyone will join us for that very special service. And we all wish you every blessing for Christmas and the year to come.

**God bless,
Rosemary Austin**



All in a Good Cause



HGS Productions

announce their production of

PIRATES OF PENZANCE

by Gilbert and Sullivan

23 to 26 March 2018

We would welcome singers to join
us

**Rehearsals at Hartley Village
Hall, Ash Road DA3 8EL**

On 5 and 12 December and every
Tuesday from 9 January

Please just come along and /or
contact our Director

Richard Gegg at rgregg@uk2.net

BIBLE NOTES

As well as the "New Daylight" booklet of Bible notes prepared by the Bible Reading Fellowship, there is also a booklet entitled "Bible reflections for older people". This also comes out every four months and is priced at £4.99. This booklet is written by older people for older people, the reflections are designed to bring hope, assurance and sustenance, reminding the reader of the presence and love of God. Each issue contains 40 Bible reflections and prayer suggestions to use and revisit as often as needed.

If you would be interested in seeing a copy of this booklet please have a word with Julie Hill.

**Do you run a local business?
Have you thought of advertising
in this monthly magazine?**

If you would like details of costs and how you could contribute to Christ Church through advertising please contact **07840343831** or email ccgravesend.mag10@yahoo.co.uk

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

MBSOUTHENDXFXXK
AUEZATHGRUBNIDE
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KYWDEQAKGRZPERE
CRQAGJSCGHABRTT
IEAELJTIKTZIDNN
WPR TALMWUATREET
TVJSSEITCEEMEV S
SUZNGEDAFHXINO A
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*This month associated with United
Kingdom airports*

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GATWICK**

The Merchant Navy Service of Remembrance held at Bawley Bay on Sunday 12 November



COFFEE ROTA 2017

- 3 Dec Pauline Marks, Annie Southwick, Gill Campbell
- 10 Dec Gill Campbell, Lucy Hornby, Maxine Springet
- 17 Dec Annie Southwick, Jenny Shoemith, Gill Campbell
- 24 Dec Angel Kirby, Gill Campbell, Annie Southwick
- 31 Dec Bianca McArther, Gill Campbell, Annie Southwick



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





**Photos taken at the Service
memorial in Windmill
showing just some of the**

**of Remembrance at the
Gardens Sunday 12 November
500 plus people that attended**



We met in the church hall to hear Margot Edwards talk about her trip to Greece.

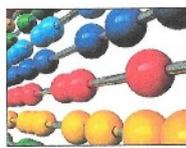
Oxfam are celebrating the 75 year anniversary of their founding in 1942 when a group of professional people in Oxford set up a charity in order to help refugees in Greece in 1942 during WW2. Margot and three other volunteers, from Scotland, Wales and North England were chosen to go together with Oxfam representatives and a filmmaker. They visited the Filippiada Refugee and Migrant Camp which caters mainly for Afghans, Iraqi and Iranians, helping them to apply for resettlement and reunite some of the families. They live in containers which replaced the earlier tents. Oxfam supplies hygiene products etc. to the camp. They were able to visit families and saw how they were coping, some were even planting little gardens outside their homes. There is a food shop and a warehouse for clothing

etc. The volunteers also visited a camp for Syrians. We made a donation to Oxfam in order to thank Margot for her talk. There is an article in last month's magazine about this.

Our next meeting will be our Christmas lunch at the North Kent College restaurant. The calendar of events for 2018 is in preparation and will be ready shortly. Our January meeting will be a talk on Russia and a reminder that the annual subscriptions are due.

Our programme for the remainder of the year is set out below, why don't you come and join us! Details from Sheila Brown

December 12
Christmas Meal



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GC-LIFT 15867

BLYTHSWOOD SHOEBOX APPEAL

A very big thank you to everyone who filled or donated to a shoebox this year. We were able to hand over to the drivers 44 completed boxes and two large bags of items which will be added to suitable boxes at the depot, this year. You have all helped to "Make someone happy this year" men, women, children, old and young in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Every individual in desperate need of that little extra that we call everyday items but to them are luxuries. Thank you for your time and care and on behalf of Blythswood may you have a very "Happy Christmas".
Veronica

COPY FOR JANUARY 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 Thursday 28 December, at the very latest, or speak to Mike Cubitt - 07840343831

Do you or a member 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!

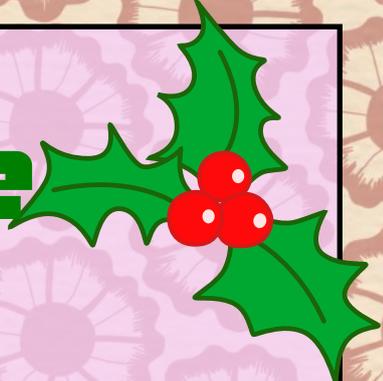
If you have a family story, perhaps with a photograph of the person you are writing about that you would like to be considered for inclusion in an edition of Christ Church

magazine over the next two years please let Sue Brewer or Mike Cubitt know.

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

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





Experience Christmas

6 interactive displays
illustrating the Christmas story
will be up in the church between
21st November and 18th December...

these are thought-provoking and prayerful for both
children and adults.

Many schools will be coming in class by class to
Experience Christmas – so please volunteer if you could
be part of a team ‘hosting’ one of these school visits...
this is very easy and very enjoyable for all concerned.

In addition, the church will be open for personal
reflection at the following times – just drop in and make
your way round in your own time:

Saturday 25th November 10am—1pm
Wednesday 6th December 10.30am—12.30pm
Sunday 17th December 3.30pm—5.30pm

On Saturday 2nd December at 10.30am there will be a
guided journey round the displays for adults, as part of
our Advent preparation – this will last about 1 hour.

Two pages of photos from the Christmas Bazaar held on Saturday 11 November





"EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS"

An interactive journey through the Christmas story for children and adults.



at
Christ Church,
Echo Square, Gravesend



Open Church on
Saturday 2 December 10 am
including an "Experience Journey"
with Rev. Sue Brewer

Wednesday 6 December 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sunday 17 December 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

and after all normal services

Groups and schools by appointment
(Rev. Sue Brewer-suec@brewer&6.plus.com)



Christingle

at Christ Church

Sunday 3 December at 16.00

Arrive at 15.30 for craft work in the hall a magical start to Advent for all the family, with oranges, sweets and candles

The meaning of Christingle: the orange represents the world God created, and the sweets all the good things in God's creation. The candle represents Jesus, the light of the world, and the red ribbon the love of Christ for his world



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Two of the Services of Remembrance held on Armistice Day, Saturday 11 November and Friday 10.

Above shows the wreath laying at the Denton War Memorial and top four photos show the service held at the Gravesend Borough Market, attended by His Worshipful the Mayor of Gravesham councillor Harold Craske and Deputy Lieutenant of Kent Rosemary Dymond

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Christmas Services

A special note about Christmas 2017 - This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. There will be no 8am service that day, and the 10am service will be a short, said service of Holy Communion.

At 3pm and again at 5pm there will be a Crib service, and Midnight Mass will be at 11.30pm.

There will be both said 8am, and sung 10am, services on Christmas Day.

Sunday 3rd December from 3.30 p.m.

CHRISTINGLE

a magical start to Advent for all the family, with craft activities, oranges, sweets and candles

Sunday 17th December 6.30 p.m.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Friday 22nd December Meet 7 p.m. in Church

COME AND SING!

Carol singing around residential homes in the parish

CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Communion (said) at 10 a.m.

CRIB SERVICE

3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

– A Service especially for children, which will be repeated—come to whichever time suits you best

Come dressed as animals, angels, shepherds or wise men

CHRISTMAS EVE 11.30 p.m.

MIDNIGHT MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY

HOLY COMMUNION at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

The very special baby

In the far-away city of Rome, Emperor Augustus needed money. "Write down the names of all the people in every country that I rule," he said. "I want to make sure they pay my tax."

The Emperor's order went out, away across the sea, to the far-off land where Mary and Joseph lived. "We must go to Bethlehem," Joseph said, "to put our names on the Emperor's list."

It was a long way, and Joseph was worried about Mary. Her baby was due soon. But they had to go. When they got to Bethlehem, the town was full of people. There wasn't one spare room. There wasn't one spare bed, not anywhere. Even the inn was full. But Mary's baby was coming soon. They had to find somewhere to stay.



There was only one place left: the place where the animals slept! They got there just in time. Very soon, Mary's baby was born. There was no place for him to sleep, except a manger, where the animals were fed. Joseph filled it with clean straw, while Mary wrapped her baby tight. Safe in the manger, little Jesus slept.



Outside on the hills, the sheep were safe in their pen. A strong stone wall with prickly thorns on top kept the fierce wild animals out. And all night long the shepherds watched out for danger. All was dark. All was quiet.

Then suddenly the sky blazed with light, too bright to look at. An angel was standing there. He spoke to the shepherds in a loud, clear voice: "Good news! The best news ever! For you and the whole world! "Today, in Bethlehem, your King is born. God's promised King! Go, and see for yourselves! You will find him lying in a manger!"

At once the sky was full of angel voices: "Glory to God in heaven and peace on earth!" Then, once again, all was dark; all was quiet. The shepherds took a deep breath. "We must do as the angel said. The sheep will be safe enough." And they hurried off to Bethlehem.

There they found the new-born King, just as the angel had told them. Not in a palace. Not in a house. Not even in the inn. They found him lying in a manger, in the place where the animals slept.



The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all that had happened: "Suddenly the sky blazed with light, and an angel spoke to us! "Today, in Bethlehem," he said, "your King is born. God's promised King! Go, and see for yourselves!" Mary listened. This was a night to remember. She would never forget it.

The shepherds strode back through the dark streets. Soon it would be morning. They must see to their sheep. The people of Bethlehem heard them go by. Deep, strong shepherd voices singing God's praise: the first Christmas carols!

ellenor.x

Quiz Night 20 December 2017

Tickets are £5 per person - drinks and food can be purchased from the bar. We are looking for teams of up to 6 and space is limited so book your place now!

Please contact Ewan Tuohy on 01474 320 007 or at ewan.tuohy@ellenor.org

Old Prince of Orange, Gravesend, DA12 1NJ

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.



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Once you have found the kitchen units for you, why not browse our extensive selection of work tops, sinks and top-brand appliances.

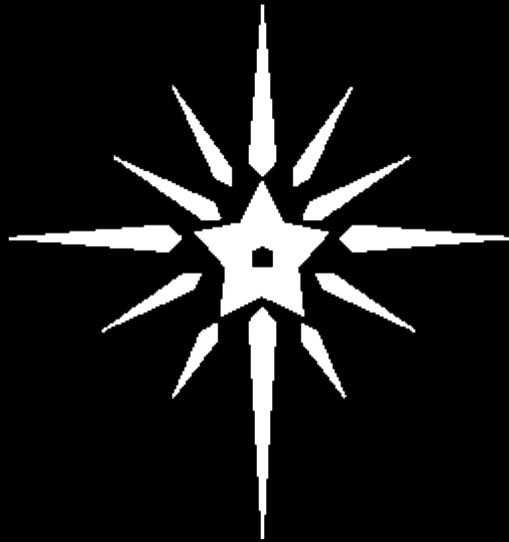
Once you have chosen the elements for your dream kitchen click here to contact Swans Kitchens for one of our designers to prepare a personal quotation.

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80 Parrock Road,
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Semiquavers Christmas Concert

Prepare to be festive!
Come and listen to our children's choir sing
Christmas songs and carols on

**6.30pm Tuesday 12th December 2017 at
Christ Church, Gravesend**

Tickets from Gill Campbell or on the door
£4 for adults and children free

semiquavers

First Steps

First Steps

FIRST STEPS

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

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

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

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

Next date is Wednesday 13 December.

Gravesham Place Day Centre

COFFEE SHOP

10.00 - 15.00

Bath Street Gravesend

CAKE & COFFEE/TEA

for just £1

All proceeds go to our amenity fund

We are open

FRIDAY

8 DECEMBER

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Estonia marks the Reformation

The Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrated five hundred years of the Reformation at St Mary's Cathedral in Tallinn with a special televised service at the end of October 2017.

The Cathedral was full, with many standing, as Archbishop Urmas spoke of their Lutheran roots and heritage. Greetings were also made at the service by the Prime Minister of Estonia and the Mayor of Tallinn.

Representing the Diocese of Rochester at the event, the Archdeacon of Rochester, Simon Burton-Jones, said to the congregation:

Luther's Reformation helped to make the Gospel intelligible and used the new technologies to share it. Our common task, in this dawning digital age which Estonia has adapted to so fluently, is to use the emerging communications tools to interpret Christ in a culture and language people can make sense of today.

by Ven Simon Burton-Jones

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.

Contact
JOHN THRUSH
200 Club Secretary
Christ Church



MUSTARD SEED

Third Thursday of the month

In

Christ Church hall 2.30 – 4.00

We invite you to come and join us for tea, biscuits, cake and conversation with occasional speakers and quizzes.

Come and find out who we are and meet new people. All ages welcome

Contact: Colin Parsonson: 01474 359713

Pam Kilby: 01474 332693



What happens at Christ Church?

Sunday Services

08.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00 am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday All-Age service

Evening Service - see inside magazine for details.

Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Saturday 8 am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7 am.

Wednesday 10 am

For further information

Contact

The Church Wardens

Office hours

Registered Charity no. 1130741

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

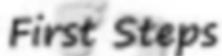
Regular activities and youth organisations

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Daily | Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards) |
| Monday | Music Group; Brownies |
| Tuesday | Mothers Union (2 nd Tuesday In church hall) Cubs and Semiquavers |
| Wednesday | Guides |
| | First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm |
| | Ifield Ladies (every third Wednesday) |
| Thursday | Beavers/Brownies; Choir Practice: 2.30 p.m. Mustard Seed (every third) |
| Friday | Rainbow Unit; Scouts; Parent and Toddler |
| Saturday | Working Party (9.30 a.m. every second) |

 Mothers UNION
Christian care for families



 First Steps



CALENDAR DECEMBER 2017

Sunday 	31 08.00 Service 10.00 Service	3 Experience Christmas 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 16.00 Christingle	10 Experience Christmas 08.00 Service 10.00 All Age Service	17 08.00 Service 10.00 Service 15.30 Church Open 18.30 Service of Lessons and Carols	24 10.00 Said Service of Holy Communion 15.00 Crib Service 17.00 Crib Service 23.30 Midnight Mass
Monday 		4 Experience Christmas 08.00 Service BROWNIES	11 Experience Christmas 08.00 Service BROWNIES	18 08.00 morning prayer	25 08.00 Service 10.00 Service with Carols
Tuesday 		5 Experience Christmas 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers	12 Experience Christmas 07.00 Service CUBS 18.15 Semiquavers Christmas Concert	19 07.00 Service 18.15 Semiquavers	26 No Services
Wednesday 		6 Experience Christmas 10.00 Service 13.45 First Steps 17.15 Evening Prayer	13 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	20 10.00 Service 17.15 Evening Prayer	27 No Services
Thursday 		7 Experience Christmas 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir Practice	14 Experience Christmas 07.00 Service BROWNIES Choir Practice	21 07.00 Service 15.00 Mustard Seed Choir Practice	28 No Services
Friday 	1 Experience Christmas 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	8 Experience Christmas 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	15 Experience Christmas 13.15 Parent and Toddlers 18.30 Office hours SCOUTS	22 19.00 Come and Sing around the parish	29 No Services
Saturday 	2 08.00 Service	9 Experience Christmas 08.00 Service 09.30 Work party 10.30 guided tour around the church	16 Experience Christmas 08.00 Service	23 08.00 Service	30 No Services

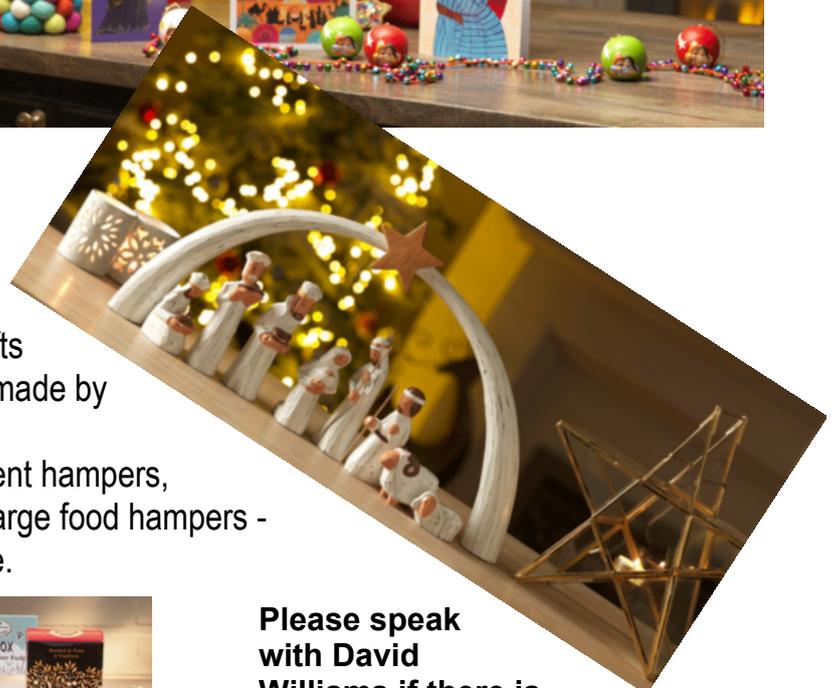
Advent calendars are a fantastic interactive way to begin the countdown to Christmas. There are several advent calendar designs to choose from within the Traidcraft range, including the fair trade Divine Chocolate advent calendar; each of our calendars has been printed within the United Kingdom. As an alternative way to count down to the festive season Traidcraft also offer an Advent Candle.

Sending a Christmas card to family and friends can really show you care. The personal touch of a hand written, hand delivered, Christmas card surpasses many other seasonal gestures. Traidcraft's extensive and diverse range of festive cards offer customers everything they need to share a thoughtful seasonal gesture with family members, neighbours and friends.

Nativity sets were first hand crafted in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi, since then Nativity sets have been a key focal point of Christmas celebrations and perfect for Christmas gifts.

Traidcraft have a fantastic array of Nativity sets, each with unique characteristics surrounding its crafting process. A large amount of care and passion is put into each Nativity piece, from the olive wood Nativity set which was master crafted by Holyland Handicrafts in Bethlehem to the wooden Holy Family made by the hand of master craftsmen in Jakarta.

Traidcraft offer a great selection of indulgent hampers, including the choice of mixed gift sets to large food hampers - each containing organic fair trade produce.



Please speak with David Williams if there is anything you would like to purchase or for more information about what is available

