

CHRIST CHURCH NEWS

MAY 2026



May 2026

Sunday 3rd May

Fifth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang
(followed by refreshments)

Wednesday 6th May

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 7th May

10am Holy Communion at Springwood Corner

1pm Holy Matrimony

Friday 8th May

7.30pm GEMS concert

Saturday 9th May

9.30am Church Working Party – come and help
keep the church tidy clean and fit for purpose

2.30pm GEMS concert

Sunday 10th May

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

12noon and 1pm Holy Baptism

Tuesday 12th May

7.30pm Mothers Union Speaker: Angela Kirby on
working with those loving with dementia and
Alzheimer's

Wednesday 13th May

10am Holy Communion

2pm First Steps service. If you are a family with
pre-school children, please come and join in the
fun.

5pm Evening Prayer

7.45pm PCC

Thursday 14th May Ascension Day

10am Pilgrim Bible Group I am the one
John 4.1-42

8pm Ascension Day Eucharist

Saturday 16th May

7pm Christian Aid Week Quiz

Sunday 17th May

Seventh Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist with God's Gang (followed
by refreshments)

Wednesday 20th May

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 21st May

2.30pm Mustard Seed

Saturday 23rd May

2.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sunday 24th May

Pentecost

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

11.30am Annual Parochial; Church Meeting

Wednesday 27th May

10am Holy Communion

5pm Evening Prayer

Thursday 28th May

10am Pilgrim Bible Group I am the bread of life
John 6.1-14 John 6.25-59

Saturday 30th May

2.30pm Holy Matrimony

Sunday 31st May Trinity Sunday

8am Holy Communion

10am Parish Eucharist (followed by refreshments)

MORNING PRAYER is usually said on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at 8.30am. **Please check the weekly sheet. Join us in church or on ZOOM.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82117921556>

The Daily Prayer app can be downloaded on your smart phone. You will find the text and an audio version on <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

CHRIST CHURCH 2026 WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Our Annual Church Meeting will take place after the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 24th May after our Pentecost Eucharist.

What role might you play in Christ Church in the coming year? Our Church is dependent on people being willing to contribute and stand for offices. We will be looking for churchwardens, for Church Council members, and Deanery Synod reps – please consider what you could contribute.



Please think and pray about this, and speak to the Vicar, to those who have been Churchwarden if you would like to know more. These are real opportunities to make a difference to our Church community. Nomination papers are available in church – with details of how those nominated can proceed. Those nominated do need to file CRB checks with our Parish Safeguarding Officer. If we are not able to fill these roles it puts more pressure on those who are willing to stand and the Vicar ends up doing more admin.

Electoral role

In the lead up to our annual meeting we will be revising our electoral role (membership list). Please get a form from Michael Charles if you have joined Christ Church in the past year.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation – what's it all about? There is a confirmation service for the Gravesend Deanery in September – we are hoping to present young people (at secondary school) and adults. Would you like to explore Christian commitment in the Church of England? If you grew up in another Christian tradition, or have come back to church as an adult, or somehow just missed out, why not take the opportunity to explore and think about faith – with no obligations. Adults will be meeting on Wednesday evenings beginning 3rd June. Please speak to the Vicar.

10th-16th May

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Seven Days to make a difference

The theme for Christian Aid Week this year is Faithful Action. The stories and pictures comes from Kenya and illustrate the daily struggles and hopes of communities facing poverty and working for a better future through urban farming..

Where hardship means hunger... urban farmers can grow hope.

In the crowded informal settlements of Nairobi, most parents wake with the crushing knowledge that if they don't earn



money that day, their children won't eat that night.

That includes Fridah Moraa, a recently widowed grandmother who lives with her twin sons, daughter and grandson in Dagoretti, a sprawling settlement that's among the biggest in Kenya.

'When I wake up, I have a lot of worries. Sometimes I don't have food,' says Fridah. The aching hunger is bad enough. The relentless stress is overwhelming. Fridah's situation is devastatingly common.

That's because alongside Nairobi's imposing skyscrapers and luxury safaris, Kenya's capital holds areas of acute deprivation.



In areas like Dagoretti, there are limited formal work opportunities and heartbreakingly low pay, with most people living on less than a dollar a day. On top of this, food prices are high, in part due to the climate crisis.

Getting three meals a day is not easy. Most manage two. Some, just one. Others go the whole day without eating.

The terrible consequence of this situation is that many families are simply not getting the nutrition they need, including children. The effects of malnutrition can last a lifetime, with stunting permanently affecting both physical and mental development.



Bad days

Like many others in Dagoretti, day-to-day life for Fridah is precarious and volatile. To bring in enough money to feed everyone, and cover all essential outgoings, Fridah sells vegetables on a market stall.

‘The challenge is that sometimes I have customers, but no money to buy vegetables. But I can’t give up – my children need to go to school. They need to eat.’

On days when she doesn’t have enough customers, or cannot buy stock to sell, Fridah’s stress soars. At times like this, she’ll often go without food so that her children can eat a little.

‘Sometimes I don’t know how I’ll buy food. I don’t know how I’ll feed my family. But I believe in myself and pray to God that I will succeed.’



Growing hope and resilience

Fridah was introduced to an impactful agricultural project run by Christian Aid’s partner, Beacon of Hope. The project offers Dagoretti residents the opportunity to train as urban farmers. By offering skills training, seeds, tools and space-efficient plots to grow produce near their homes, parents like Fridah are turning the tide on urban poverty.

With grit and determination, Fridah’s studying hard. Sessions don’t just cover farming techniques, such as pest management, compost production, and seed cultivation, but business skills, including money management and marketing.



Gaining both knowledge and confidence, Fridah was eager to start growing her own food. ‘I discovered I could sow here – right where I stand! I learned that here in Nairobi, you can farm where you live, even if you don’t have land.’

Hidden at the end of a concrete alley, you’d never guess a lush, plant-packed space could thrive. As Fridah pulls open the rickety gate and takes in what she’s achieving, her face shines with pride.

Fridah’s now beginning to reap the benefits of the nutritious produce she’s growing. Colourful kale, tomatoes and a range of indigenous vegetables are now being sold on her market stall and fed to her family.

From living meal to meal, not knowing if her children will go to bed with empty stomachs, Fridah now cherishes the security her small urban farm is bringing, knowing that she can better protect her children from the threat of malnutrition. ‘Urban farming has changed my life.’

Fridah adds: ‘When what I have planted grows – that is what makes me happy. When I get money that I have earned – that is what makes me happy.’

Christian Aid and its supporters are joining together once again during Christian Aid Week (10-16 May) to fundraise in all kinds of ways – from coffee mornings and craft stalls to hiking and biking for the 70k in May challenge.

With seven days to make a difference, every gift, act and prayer counts. What will you do to support someone like Fridah to grow food, protect their children from hunger, and nurture hope?

· £5 could buy the seeds that kickstart a family's nutritious vegetable garden.

· £10 could pay for the pair of chickens that produce fertiliser for an urban farmer.

· £15 could purchase the hand tools that mean an urban farmer can tend their crops.

· £30 could buy the trio of cone garden planters that host hundreds of plants in a tiny city space.

Find out more about the campaign at caweek.org

CHRIST CHURCH
ECHO SQUARE



SATURDAY 16th MAY 2026
at 7pm in the Hall

*Bring your own
snacks &
refreshments*

To book a table for 6 to 8 quizzers
(Individuals can join a team on the night)
Please email

office@christchurchgravesend.com

Charity Number: 1130741

PILGRIM BIBLE STUDY – 14th and 28th May Thursdays at 10am

In the coming months we will be exploring the 'I am' sayings in John's gospel. Who did Jesus think he was? Why did he use these images to teach to his disciples about his work? What can they tell us about the Jesus we are called to follow and represent in our own time?





THY KINGDOM COME – a novena of prayer from Ascension to Pentecost 14th – 24th May

This year a booklet written by our new Archbishop is available to use during this time. The booklet can be found on line at: [TKC Novena 2026 DIGITAL 0.pdf](#)

Archbishop Sarah writes in her introduction:

This year's theme is 'God with Us', and how the Holy Spirit has been at work in the world. And at its heart, as always, is the Prayer for Five, as we pray on behalf of five of our friends, family members, neighbours, or colleagues who do not yet follow Christ, that they may come to know Him as we do. prayer is not simply about asking God to change the world. I've come to realise that it's as much about asking God to change us. Prayer shapes the pray-er. God reshapes us, as the potter reshapes clay, moulding us into a truer reflection of his image. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand,' (Jeremiah 18:6).



COMING SOON- SUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY 13th JUNE



CHRIST CHURCH MILTON
NEXT GRAVESEND BRANCH

Our next meeting is on Tuesday
12th May
7.30 in the Church Hall

Our speaker will be
Angela Kirby from our local
Alzheimer's and Dementia
Support Services.
All are welcome.



PALM SUNDAY



Holy Week and Maundy Thursday



EASTER DAY – Christ is risen Alleluia!



Mothers Union April Meeting *Many hands.....*

Christ Church MU members met together to sew MU labels onto hats and scarves knitted for the Mission to Seafarers.




Thursday 14th May
ASCENSION DAY
Festival Eucharist
8pm

at Christ Church,
Old Road East, DA12NR



GEMS IN CONCERT

Spring Concerts 2026



**THE RHYTHM
OF LIFE**



**Friday 8th May, 7.30pm &
Saturday 9th May, 2.30pm**



**Christchurch, Old Road East,
Gravesend DA12 1NR**

TICKETS ON THE DOOR £10



[www.gravesendentertainmentand
musicalsociety.org](http://www.gravesendentertainmentandmusicalsociety.org)

NODA
For every stage

PRAYER CALENDAR

	THE COMMUNITY	CHURCH
1	The Elderly	Those who use our hall
2	Those with poor mental health	Our preschool
3	The armed services	Our clergy
4	GPs and community health workers	Our Churchwarden Our Parochial Church Council
5	Foodbanks and those who use them The homeless	The children in our church Tots' Group, God's Gang and First Steps
6	Young people at university & college, or in work or apprenticeships	For vocations in the church, and those in training for ordained and lay ministry
7	The unemployed	Street Pastors
8	Our parliament and MP	Churches Together in Gravesend
9	Our emergency services	Our companion dioceses in Estonia, Zimbabwe and Tanzania
10	Social workers	Neighbouring Parishes
11	Children	Our lay ministers
12	Prisoners and prison staff	Prison chaplains
13	The victims of racism and discrimination	Christian Aid
14	Those who support people in the workplace	Our Bishops and Archdeacon
15	Our neighbours of other faiths	Those who are new in our church
16	Our local hospitals	Hospital chaplains
17	All who work with young people Our local Schools School pastors	Inclusive Church and all who work for inclusion and equality
18	Those living with dementia	Our safeguarding team
19	Musicians and artists	Our organist, choir & Semiquavers
20	Family life	Our Mothers Union
21	Our councillors and council	Those who are persecuted for their faith
22	All involved in the production and distribution of food The Foodbank and DailyHub	Mustard Seed Those who are housebound or isolated
23	All who work on the river RNLI	Those preparing for marriage
24	Victims of domestic abuse	Those who care for our buildings
25	Those who care for green spaces	That we may be more aware of our impact on our planet
26	Those who are affected by modern day slavery	Baptism families
27	Those who work in information, journalism and social media	Those who prepare our notice sheet and communications
28	Local businesses Our local funeral directors	The bereaved
29	Those fighting addictions	Uniformed organisations
30	Refugees and asylum seekers	Our Cathedral in Rochester
31	Care homes in our parish SpringwoodCorner, Larchwood and Sheringham	Those preparing for First Communion or Confirmation

23rd May - to mark 'Thy Kingdom Come' (the period between Ascension Day and Pentecost), Revd Jim Fletcher (Vicar of St George's) will lead a prayer walk from Gravesend to Rochester (7 miles). 10.30 am outside St George's, finishing with Evensong at Rochester Cathedral at 3.15 pm. If you don't fancy the walk, you can meet us in Rochester for Evensong. Offers of lifts back gratefully received or we can get the train. Get in touch with Revd Jim if you want to join jim@stgeorgesgravesend.org

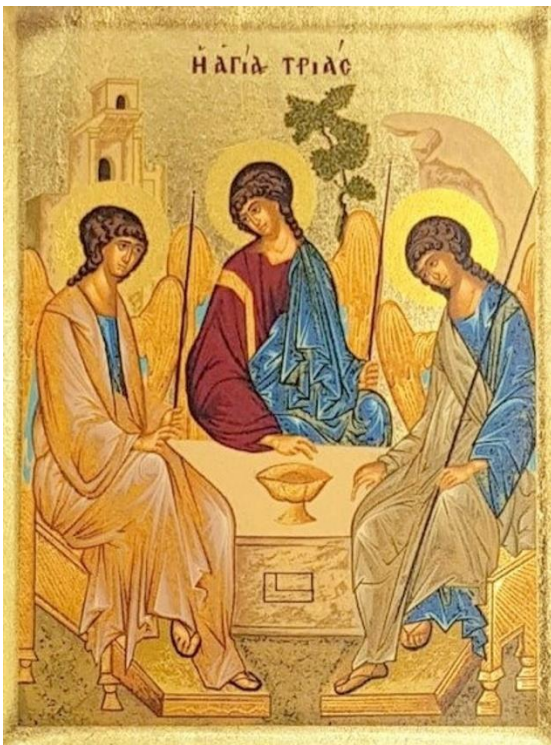
TRINITY SUNDAY

Trinity Sunday comes at the end of the special time in the church's life when we reflect on what we have come to know of God in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit. It's a moment to consider what Christians call a mystery. That's not an excuse for the inadequacies of our explanations but a measure of the depth, the profundity of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

It's a familiar formula we use in baptisms and blessings: in the name of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Being baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity gives us something to live up to.

Baptism in the name of 'the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' is 'not a magical incantation. It is a witness to the love of the triune God whose own life is in community and who welcomes all into the new human community founded on grace alone.

(David Migliore)



Baptism is an invitation into the life of God.

The Christian faith is just what it says on the tin - FAITH – belief is about staking one's life on something beyond us that calls us into relationship, not on a remote possibility that a certain type of God exists. It involves the willingness to take a risk and find meaning in what is beyond us, yet closer to us than anything else, God who allows us to be ourselves but challenges us to live a way of openness and love to those around us.

If faith is the way in which, in this life, we know God, then learning to 'believe in' God is learning to see all things the way God sees them; as worth infinite expenditure of understanding, interest and care.
(Nicholas Lash)

Having staked our lives on God in trinity we discover that the interactions of community are to be found in God. That experience may be found in the church, but will also be apparent in the reciprocity we find in all activities that involve human exchange. Some describe this as learning to become God's friends:



Friendship with the triune God reshapes my perception of the world. Believing in the Father, the creator of heaven and earth, I see every-thing with gratitude. Believing in the Son, I delight in its intelligibility and seek understanding. Believing in the Holy Spirit, I am thrown beyond myself in love. (Timothy Radcliffe)

And that experience of being drawn in and caught up has consequences – we are called to replicate it in our lives in a way that we cannot keep it to ourselves.

That is why we as Church put so much into our relationships with each other as well as our friendships, our partnerships with other churches, with charities, with community partners, with friends of other faiths. It is why Mustard Seed matters, why our Tots group matters, why the Preschool matters. Each draws us into common ground with others.

God is to be recognised in the ways in which we try to communicate with the other, in our personal relationships, in the sometime painful ways in which human beings try to identify themselves and others and grow, however slowly, in harmony together.
(Rowan Williams)

It will not be in textbooks, stained glass windows or theology that those around us discover the joy of God as Trinity, God as loving and loved, but in the midst of our lives, in the life of our church, in the quality of the relationships they glimpse between - in friendship, in simple acts of hospitality, in our struggles for community life, in our worship, our enjoyment of God, our dependence on God, our friendship with God will break through as a sign of wholeness for our community, our society, our world.

HYMNATHON

FOR **christian
aid**

16 SATURDAY
MAY 2PM - 4.30PM

St. George's Church,
Gravesend

Come and join us for an afternoon of favourite hymns that members of St. George's Church have sponsored our organist Martin Beech to play. All welcome. Feel free to drop in for as long as you like to sing along or just enjoy listening. Refreshments provided. If you haven't taken part in the sponsorship but would like to donate to the work of Christian Aid, there will be envelopes available.



The heart of mission is prayer
A PRAYER FESTIVAL
to explore different ways of praying



Keynote speaker:

Canon Dr Neville Emslie

Director of Mission and Ministry, Canterbury Diocese

With workshops on:

Pilgrimage, Christian meditation, Celtic Prayer, Labyrinth
Pilgrimage, Praying with Dreams, Ignatian Prayer
& the Jesus Prayer

Saturday 30th May 2026

10am-4pm at West Malling:

St Benedict's Centre and Malling Abbey

Suggested donation £10-20

To book:

Scan the QR code or click on the link below

For information: email susanne.carlsson@rochester.anglican.org



<https://tickets.myknowchurch.co.uk/gb/MzAxI.TkwNA/t>



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