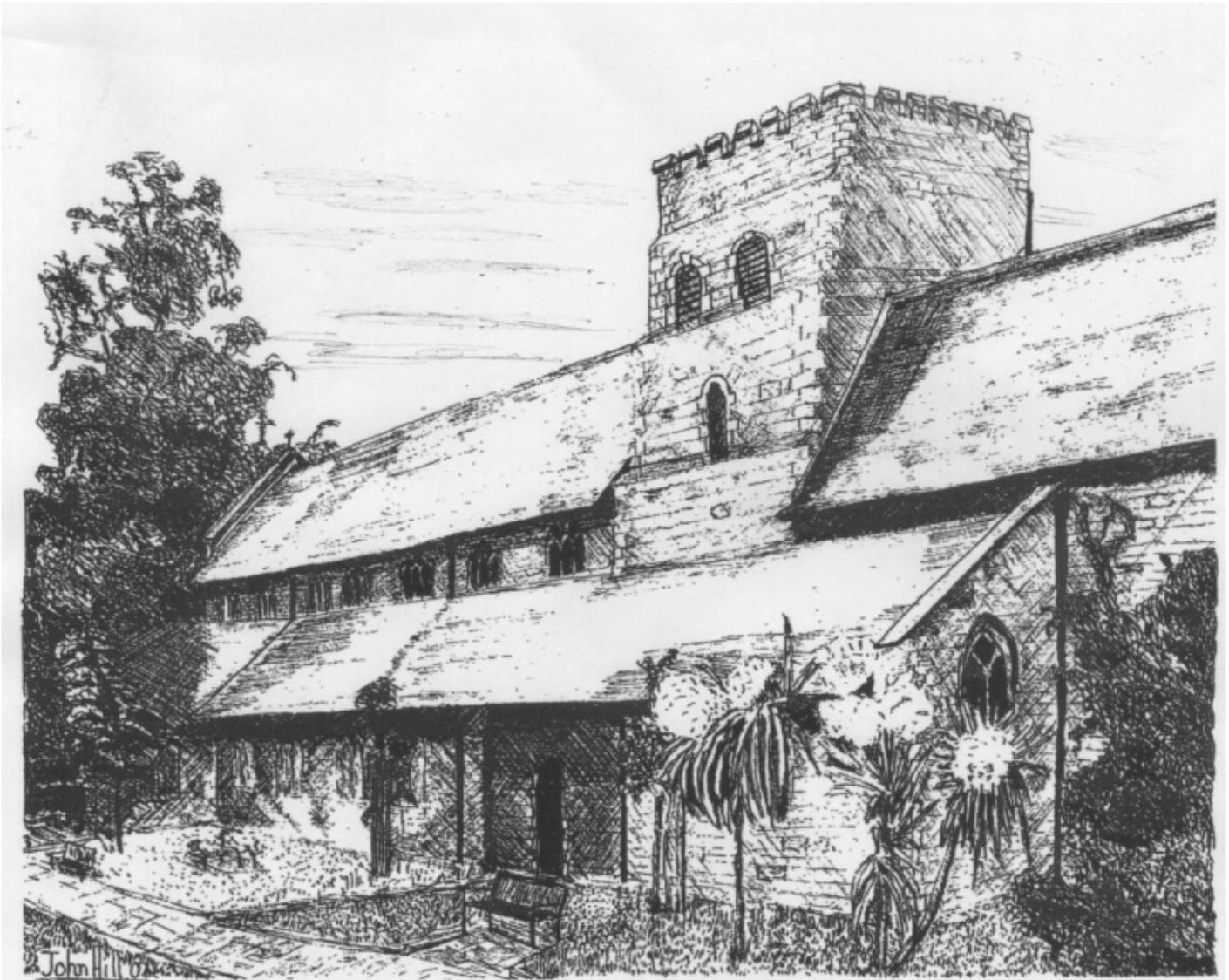




CHRIST CHURCH  
MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND

# PARISH MAGAZINE



John Hill 2007

  
First Steps

Parent & Toddler



CHRIST CHURCH  
**YOUTH  
CLUB**



February 8th

God's Gang

Pre-School

February  
2009

Vicar	Sue Brewer	352643 suec@brewer86.plus.com
Hon. Ass. Priest	Jacqueline Littlewood	560106
Pastoral Assistant	Pam Kilby	332693
Church Warden	Christine Sewell	745443
Church Warden	Peter Shearan	566215
PCC Secretary	Julie Hill	568265
PCC Treasurer	Stanley Bond	534510
Reader	Rosemary Austin	358702
Reader	Sheila Brown	356339
Reader	John Hougham	352138
Reader	Betty Martin	352696
Reader	Martin Sewell	745443

Deadline for March magazine: Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February .  
Put on peg in the vestry, or hand to a Churchwarden,  
or email: [ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop](mailto:ianbbrown@phonecoop.coop)

Inside this month's magazine

- Page 3 Open Church
- Page 4 The Tale of the Christ Church Four
- Page 5 Sunday Morning Coffee Rota
- Page 6 God's Gang / Letter from Aly
- Page 7 Focus on Families
- Page 8/9 First Steps
- Page 10 Gardening tips for February
- Page 11 Baptisms / Evening services
- Page 12/13 Thank you letters
- Page 14 Music at Christ Church
- Page 15 Calendar

Christ Church Hall  
is available for hire.  
Contact: Mrs Joan Bennett  
01474 568585

Well equipped. Very  
suitable for meetings  
and children's parties.

# Open Church

A mum and her child pause outside the church door- the little boy has been wanting to go inside for some time and now the church is open. They are invited in and he enjoys a peek at baby Jesus in the crib, and lights a candle for mummy and daddy...



A woman takes a tour of the church out of curiosity. She has an interest in family history and with help she is able to trace family members in the Christ Church records...

A family, arriving early for the interment of a loved one in the Garden of Remembrance, have somewhere warm and welcoming to wait and prepare...  
A woman caring for her husband through the final stages of his illness, finds a quiet space to rest and to shed a tear or two...

A mum pops in on her way to the nursery, to enquire about a baptism...  
Church members with 'jobs' to do in the church, find access easy and a friendly face to chat to...

Just some of the benefits of opening Christ Church to visitors for an hour and a half every weekday between 10am and 11.30am. Of course, there are days when there are no visitors, (especially the rainy days!), and many have not yet heard that their Parish Church is open - but an increasing number are appreciating that the church is available for our local community to use.



If you haven't yet called in - please come along. Welcomers will answer any questions you may have, you can pick up a Parish Magazine or leave a request for someone to visit you and the St Faith's Chapel (to the left of the main altar) is set aside for quiet prayer. If you want to be left alone - no problem, and there is a candle-stand if you would like to light a candle for someone.

Sue Brewer

See you there!



## Together@Bognor - The Tale of the Christ Church Four

Who in their right mind would spend four days at Butlins at Bognor in the middle of January? That is a very good question and it is exactly what Sheila Brown, Martin & Christine Sewell and I did from 19-22 January when we attended the Diocesan Conference together with approximately five hundred other delegates.

Compared with the programme for the following three days, the first day, Monday, was fairly light. The conference was opened with a liturgy by the Bishop of Chichester followed by the first of four daily bible studies on Deuteronomy, to be led by Rev Dr Chris Wright, International Ministries Director of the Langham Partnership International. The rest of the day was less formal and included a 'Getting to know you' session which as the name suggests was an opportunity to meet and greet other delegates with the help of a glass of sherry and a fun activity. After supper and to round off the day, the four of us took the opportunity to watch the film 'The Kite Runner' which was showing at the on site cinema.

Tuesday dawned wet and a little windy. The first item on the programme for the day was a service of Eucharist 0730 for those who wished to attend. Unfortunately, due to a late night on Monday, none of us quite made it however; Christine & Martin did manage the informal prayer meeting at 0800. At 0930 following breakfast everybody attended the daily bible study, again led by Rev Dr Chris Wright. After a break for coffee we gathered together once again for the first of two daily presentations this one titled, 'One People', given by Rev John Bell, an ordained minister in the Church of Scotland and a member of the Iona Community. The afternoon session began with an opportunity for each delegate to attend any two of fourteen hour long seminars led by visiting speakers and including, 'Exploring the gifts of the spirit in the writings of Paul' and 'The practice of healing and wholeness', both of which I attended and found to be very informative, although I confess that the first one was a little hard going. After a much needed cup of tea everybody gathered together once again for the second presentation of the day, this one titled, 'One Passion', given by Dr Paula Gooder, a freelance writer and lecturer in Biblical Studies.

Early evening and the opportunity to experience one of a number of different worship styles. We opted for a 'Taize' service and were all agreed that we would like to share it with you at sometime in the future. The 'Getting to know you' theme continued in similar fashion to Monday except that the sherry was replaced by wine. After supper we were given a real treat with a riotously funny performance by Adrian Plass, a Christian writer and speaker of whom many of you may well have heard. No trip to the movies tonight as we intended being up bright and early on Wednesday morning to attend the Eucharist.

The weather on Wednesday morning was somewhat better than Tuesday although overcast and yes, we all managed to get to the Eucharist service, on time. We had made up our minds that we couldn't come to Bognor without having seen the sea and so it was that after breakfast, Christine, Sheila and I braved the wind and did just that. After breakfast the programme for the day followed much the same pattern as for Tuesday. Dr Chris Wright once again led the bible study and the main speaker for the morning session was the Chief Executive of Church Army, Mark Russell, who spoke on the theme of 'One Purpose'. After lunch, it was seminars once again. This time I opted for, 'A Theology of Healing and Wholeness, followed by, 'Sensory style worship', which I attended with Christine and Martin. The main speaker in the afternoon was, Rev Dr Alison Morgan, an ordained priest in the Church of England who works as a thinker and writer for, 'ReSource', a national initiative founded to encourage renewal of the Church for mission, her theme was, 'Together'.

For our worship option, I decided on, Choral Evensong' whilst Martin Christine & Sheila sampled, Celtic/Ionian Worship. After a final, 'Get to know you' session, Bucks Fizz on offer this time, and then supper, we were entertained by, Mark Townsend, an ordained priest turned magician. To end the day it was off to the movies again for Christine & Sheila, this time to see, Mama Mia, from what I understand, they together with the rest of the audience were literally, 'rocking in the aisles. Martin and me? We went back to our accommodation, opened a bottle of wine and sat chatting.

And then it was Thursday, our last day, where did the last three days go? Following the final bible study session, it was time for the main meeting, 'The way ahead', which included a Eucharist at which Bishop Michael was both Celebrant and preacher. What a wonderful and indeed for me, a moving way to draw to a close a busy and exciting week, five hundred Christian folk worshipping their God in words and songs of praise.

In addition to everything else that went on there was 'The Marketplace', where there were bookstalls offering a wide selection of Christian books and publications. There were also displays by a number of Christian societies and organisations.

Would I go again? The answer to this has to be a resounding yes. The speakers were first class, the seminars were informative and thought provoking and the fellowship was just something else. See you there next time round?

Colin Parsonson

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## Sunday Morning Coffee Rota

1st	Feb	Week 3	David & Shirley Whitehead
8th	Feb	Week 4	Margaret Davies, Ian & Sheila Brown
15th	Feb	Week 5	Barbara Bunyan, Audrey Price, Mary Sargeant
22	Feb	Week 6	Sylvia Brown, Jasmine & Steve Humphries
1st	Mar	Week 7	Joan & Bob Bennett, Ann Lennard

Maureen Fittell



# Focus on Families

Here at Christ Church we hope that we offer a warm welcome to everybody, especially for our Sunday morning services. At the 10am service we have a crèche for under-4's, and God's Gang for children aged 4 to 14, as well as a service with choir and sermon for the adults. We hope that that is 'something for everyone' - but we know that sometimes parents with



young children who love to come to church, are worried about the noise that their children may make in church (don't be - they are welcome just as they are!); or else find it difficult to 'settle' their children and relax themselves. The Church leadership at Christ Church (known as the PCC) have decided over the next 2 years to look at how we can improve the worship experience at Christ Church for families with children. We will be looking at all that we do, and considering what improvements we can make to make things easier for families.

We need to know what you think. Do you have children and worship with us? Or maybe you are apprehensive about bringing your little ones to church? Please let us know what you find helpful and what is unhelpful.

We are planning a 'Focus event' in the near future. You don't know if you don't ask! So, over tea, we will listen to the opinions of parents and of children and incorporate what we hear into our planning. If you are a carer of children under 16, and would be willing to come along and give your thoughts, please contact Rev Sue Brewer - 01474 352643

## Confirmation 2009

*New to faith?*

*Renewed faith?*

*Exploring faith?*

On 26th April 2009, we will share with other local churches in a service of Confirmation and Renewal of Vows at Holy Family Church, Gravesend.

Preparation begins in March 2009—why not join in.

Explore what you **really** believe— make 2009 an opportunity for you to celebrate your faith.

If you want to know more... there will be a preliminary meeting for all those who might be interested, in Christ Church on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon.

Or call Rev Sue Brewer - 01474 352643



# First Steps

14<sup>th</sup> January 2009

Hi everyone! Did you come to our Crib Service on Christmas Eve? Because if you did you might have noticed that I wasn't there! Can you believe it?

That very special service that our naughty little sheep and I were so looking forward to and I was ill and couldn't be there. I was very disappointed! Our naughty little sheep told me that he thought at first that he wouldn't be able to take his starring role without me there but bravely he carried on regardless and I understand that he did really well. He said that he doesn't think that he's ever seen the Church so full, with happy excited children and smiling Mums and Dads, Grannies and Grandpas. He was really excited and a bit nervous when he thought about playing his special sheep role in the Christmas Story. And he told me that when he was standing in the Cowshed with all the other figures his wool was positively quivering though he was trying very hard to stand still and look suitably serious. He said he was really sad that I couldn't be there to see him and be part of such a special occasion. Oh well, I guess I'll just have to wait until next Christmas! I am so pleased that he was such a good sheep.

Well done him! And well done everyone involved for making the Crib service such a success!

14<sup>th</sup> January is a very chilly and foggy day and I hope that some of our Mums and Grandmas will brave the weather to join us for our First Steps Service. I have some excellent news for our naughty little sheep. I saw Lesley Harries at the 10am service this morning and she is going to make a special hat for him, just like the one that Peter Shearan was wearing just before Christmas. And she wants him to go and stay at her house for a couple of days while she makes it for him. He says that it will be just like going on holiday and he's really excited about it. But she'll have to keep a close eye on him to make sure that he doesn't wander off. You know what he's like and I'd hate to lose him!

Julie Hill and I get things ready for our service and our naughty little sheep asks if he can stand on the pulpit just like he is in the photo in our January magazine. Ian Brown took the photo at the Christingle service in December and our naughty little sheep is really pleased with it. Doesn't he look fine! What a handsome sheep! He promises me that he will stand really still and not jiggle about. We don't want him to fall on Marion's head when she's playing the piano for us, do we? He also tells me that he's feeling a bit sad because Sue can't join us for our service today. She's with her daughter Katie who's in hospital after a big operation and we all hope that she'll be fighting fit again very soon and we'll be keeping the whole family in our prayers.

Soon Mums and Grannies and children begin to arrive. Kay comes in first with Martha who's fast asleep in her buggy again. I wonder how long she'll sleep this time! Then Daniel arrives with Grandma Barbara and he's brought his baby cousin Olivia and her Mum Lisa to join us.

They've come all the way from Chatham! There are lots more new faces, including Naomi, with Mum Laura, Matthew with Mum Catherine, Isaac with Mum Bonna and Phoebe with Mum Claire. In the end we have 23 grownups including our helpers, and 19 children, how great is that? Our naughty little sheep is really pleased to see that so many have come along to join us today but he's trying very hard not to jump up and down with excitement.

When everyone is settled with jingle bells at the ready, we begin our service by singing "Candletime" as I light the candles. We also light 10 little candles remembering special Grannies and Grandads and special birthdays. Our naughty little sheep tries to count them all from his vantage point on the pulpit but he tells me later that he ran out of feet. Today we are thinking about "Looking after God's world." Which is very appropriate for a New Year. We begin by singing, "Here we go round the Park again" though it's a bit chilly for that today! We think about being sure to pick up our rubbish before we leave, because that is one way we can help to look after our beautiful world. We also sing, "Share it round" because caring for and sharing with our fellow human beings is part of that too! There's lots of enthusiastic jingling as we finish by singing "He's got the whole world in His hands" remembering God's love for us and His care and concern for us. Then Martha finally wakes up bless her! It's those jingling bells again!

The children take turns to blow out all of their special candles and our naughty little sheep finally comes down from the pulpit. Isabelle asks if she can look after him in the Hall. What a good idea, because he really needs someone to keep an eye on him! Out we all go into the Hall, our newcomers and our much-loved regulars in a happy crowd. It has been so good to be together, to praise God and jingle those bells! Now it is time for a chat, refreshments and play.

Isabelle is having a lovely time with you-know-who and he's playing really nicely. Joyce, Julie and Marian are slaving away in the kitchen making tea, pouring out squash and plating up biscuits for our lively crowd. I hand round our colouring pictures to remind everyone to "Look after God's world" because we want it to be lovely, and rich and productive for the generations to come and that is what God wants too! He's counting on us!

We've all had such fun together but as usual the time has flown by and now it is time to go home. Isabelle hands back our naughty little sheep who is absolutely shattered. He tells me that he's going to have a little lie down when everyone has gone. I remind him that our next service is going to be on 11<sup>th</sup> February when we are going to be hearing the story of the Lost Sheep. He is really pleased about that because after the Christmas story that is his very favourite. It's been lovely to have some new additions to our little flock today as well as those we already know and love. Lets hope they can all join us again in February.  
God Bless.

Rosemary Austin.

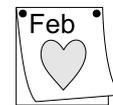
# COFFEE MORNINGS

Friday	February	27th
Friday	March	27th
Friday	April	24th
Friday	May	29th
Friday	June	26th
Friday	September	25th
Friday	October	30th
Friday	November	27th
Friday	December	11th

Please make a note of these dates in  
your diary  
and tell your friends and family too!

Many thanks for your continued  
support of the Ellenor Lions Hospices.  
Registered Charity No. 1121561

## GARDENING TIPS FOR FEBRUARY



February is the time of the year to try and put Winter behind and think of Spring. Be careful, winter can come back with a vengeance this month. Although Spring Bulbs are coming up and some daffodils of my acquaintance were showing well before Christmas. Do not worry that these early bulbs will be spoiled by bad weather, they won't.

For the first two weeks at least of this month I suggest that you concentrate, mainly indoors, on your last year's garden display and plan this year's accordingly.

Remember that if you tried something different last year but it did not come off, was it because of excessive rain, lack of sunshine and warmth or was it perhaps a bad idea. If it was the bad Summer maybe the idea is worth a second try. If you now feel it was a bad idea then scrap it and plan something new.

Towards the end of the month and the beginning of next, Roses can have their final prune. Do not prune Spring flowering shrubs like Forsythia and Quince until after they flower.

ADAM

## Holy Baptism



30th Nov.	Paige Louise Bourton Sophia Perrott Kai James Oldman Kai Michael Alexander O'Mara
7th Dec.	Isobel Vanessa Rosemary Cole Rosemary Adebimpe Eleohor Ndeh Ovie Abraham Ndeh
21st Dec.	Poppy Mae Merrison Norris
18th Jan.	Charlie William Foyster

## Rest in Peace



16th Nov.	Harold Jackson
25th Nov.	Harry Albert Pemble
30th Nov.	Ronald Charles Betts
8th Dec.	George Alfred Ashmore
12th Dec.	Doris Flora Venus
21st Dec.	Evelyn Phillis Atkinson
27th Dec.	Eric Chudleigh Rolfe

*Julie Hill*



## Evening Services at Christ Church

Sunday Feb 8th - 4 p.m.	Evening Service with Prayer for Healing
Wed Feb 25th - 7.30pm	Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

There will be Ecumenical Evening Services during Lent, on  
4th March at St John's RC Church  
11th March at Christ Church  
18th March at St Paul's URC Church, Singlewell Road. 7.30pm

15 December 2008

Our Ref: 6957

Dear Treasurer

**'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' (Jeremiah 29:11)**

Thank you Milton Christ Church for your very kind and generous donation of £150.00 in support of the work of Church Army. Through your prayerful and financial support, Church Army are able to work with people and assist them in discovering the plans God has for them. With your help we are able to reach people with His hope and love.

We are committed to working in partnership with others as we seek to share the good news of the risen Christ both in word and action. Your partnership in prayer and practical support is very much valued and appreciated. Working together in this way, we pray that God will bless the work as we seek to make a difference in the lives of others.

If you would like further resources about Church Army please contact Victoria Carr on 020 8309 3519.

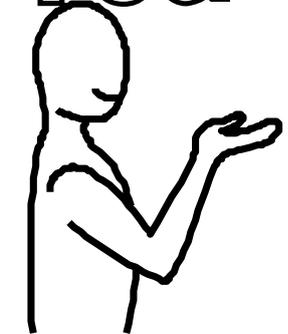
Thank you once again for your support in sharing faith through words and actions.

Yours sincerely

*Paul*

Captain Paul Fitzpatrick CA  
Head of Fundraising  
T: 020 8309 3574  
E: [p.fitzpatrick@churcharmy.org.uk](mailto:p.fitzpatrick@churcharmy.org.uk)

# Thank You



22<sup>nd</sup> December 2009

Dear Sue,

Forgive the delay in sending you this letter but life has been busy as I am sure it has for you. I would just like to thank all the folk at Christ Church for their hard work which made the Lights of Love Service so successful. Many people have commented on the service and the warm welcome they received. Please convey our thanks to all the people who worked so hard to make the service a positive experience.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours in His service

*David Norley*

David Norley.

# Thank You



**Soroptimist International of  
Gravesend & District**

*Quiz Evening*

Thank you to all Christ Church members who supported our Quiz last month. With your help we raised £500 to send to our link club in Freetown in Sierra Leone. The money will go towards a borehole to bring fresh water to a village. We had some lovely comments about the evening, with people saying how much they had enjoyed it - we could not have done it without you.

Here's to next January.

Sheila Knight



**North Kent Women's Aid**  
(formerly known as Dartford & Gravesham Women's Aid)

PO Box 753 Dartford Kent DA1 1FY  
Tel: (01322) 384792 Fax: (01322) 381521  
Email: admin@nkwa.org.uk  
Charity Reg. No. 1125773

06<sup>th</sup> January 2008

Mrs Betty Martin

Gravesend  
Kent

Dear Mrs Betty,

I would like to say a big Thank You for your Christmas donation of women's gifts and children toys to Women's Aid. This act of kindness was highly appreciated by the women and children at the refuge.

As you know, we are fairly reliant on fundraising and donations and you can be assured that your generous donation will be put to good use.

On behalf of the women and children within NKWA, many thanks indeed.

Yours sincerely

**Mena Kataria**  
Administrator

*Supported by the Royal Bank of Scotland, Dartford Borough Council,  
Gravesham Borough Council and Help a London Child*

Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Big Lottery Fund



Thank you to all who have supported our Traidcraft stall.

Total sales for 2008 were £1,975. This includes Christmas cards, toilet rolls and kitchen rolls used by the church and pre-school.

We purchase stock at 10% discount. From our surplus, £50 was sent to Christian Aid and £100 to Traidcraft Exchange Christmas Appeal to help a poor farmer in the third world.

John Hill

Choir

# Music at Christ Church

Spring is not too far away, we are already starting to practise music for Passiontide.

We are very pleased to welcome three new members to the Choir in the Soprano Section: Christine Holder Torrie Holder and Georgia Erangey.

It is particularly nice to have 2 new little Choirgirls joining us. They are enjoying being in the Choir and coming to Choir Practice.

The Choir congratulated Gwyneth and Michael on the occasion of their Ruby Wedding Anniversary at the beginning of January. They were presented with a floral arrangement from Christ Church and flowers and a gift from the Choir.



*Pam Kilby*

## CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH CLUB

For the Youth Club meeting on Sunday 8th February we will be going to Rochester Cathedral for ANGELSPACE.

For more details speak to Sue, Ian, John or Steve .



## Mothers' UNION

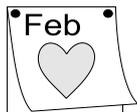
Christian care for families

February 4th - **AGM.** at 8 pm.  
at 4 St Mary's Close  
Everyone is welcome  
We are looking for a new committee member too - could it be you?

March 4th - A Meditation on Lent  
led by Angela Pain  
at Betty's 235 Wrotham Road.

# February

## AngelSpace



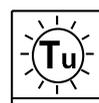
Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



1 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club	8 8 am Service 10 am Service 12 pm Confirmation Meeting 4 pm Healing Service Youth Club to Angelspace	15 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club	22 8 am Service 10 am Service Youth Club Magazine deadline BP birthday World Thinking Day
2 <b>Candlemass</b> Cubs Brownies	9 Cubs Brownies	16 Cubs Brownies	23 Cubs Brownies Fair Trade Fortnight begins
3 8 pm Youth club leaders meet	10 6pm Staff Meeting	17	24 Shrove Tuesday 6pm Staff Meeting
4 Guides MU Meeting AGM	11 First Steps Guides God's Gang planning meeting	18 Guides	25 Ash Wednesday Service 7.30 pm Guides
5 Beavers Brownies	12 Beavers Brownies Darwin Day	19 Beavers Brownies	26 Beavers Brownies
6 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office	13 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office	20 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office	27 Parent & Toddler Scouts CCADS Office
7 Six Nations Rugby begins	14 St. Valentine's Day National Marriage Week	21 National Nest Box Week	28 24 hour Tea or Coffee break

# What happens at Christ Church?

## Sunday Services

8.00 am Holy Communion (said)

10.00 am Communion with crèche & God's Gang

On the 2nd Sunday Uniformed Organisations parade

Evening Service - see inside magazine for details.

## Weekday Services

Holy Communion (said)

Monday and Saturday 8am.

Tuesday & Thursday 7.00am.

Wednesday 10.00am

For further information  
contact  
the Church Wardens

## Office hours

Friday 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm

## Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs for you:-

Daily Christ Church Pre-school (2½ upwards)

Monday Cubs; Music Group; Brownies

Tuesday

Wednesday Guides; Mothers Union (1st Wednesday)

First Steps (under 5's and carers) 2nd Wednesday 1.45pm

Thursday Beavers; Brownies; Choir Practice

Friday Scouts; Amateur Dramatics ; Parent and Toddler

Saturday Working party (1st Saturday)

Sunday Christ Church Youth Club

